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Manila Seedling Bank finds ally in Ombudsman

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PNP chief Lomibao approves filing of charges vs 14 TMG men in trader's accidental shooting

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8 injured in bus bombing in Digos City, Davao del Sur

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Ariel Sharon's loyal No. 2 man wins Israeli election

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, March 30, 2006 ** 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 112 P18

Tarlac restaurant sets up 'wall of fury' for hotheads

GORONA, TARLAC—Arelith Vasquez is an angry young woman. On top of family and academic pressure, the 13-year-old Filipina says boys tease her at school.

But instead of letting her emotions eat away at

TARLAC A4

No job crisis; Filipinos just choosy–Favila

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT LACKING IN WORK opportunities, but unemployed Filipinos are just fussy about the jobs that come their way, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said yesterday.

"We have plenty of jobs available in the country today, but the problem is some Filipinos are just...picksan or choosy," said Favila.

NO JOB CRISIS A4

Erap: Chavit got ₱1.4B

Ousted President out to destroy my credibility, says Singson

By Nelson Flores

OUSTED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA YESTERDAY CALLED Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson a liar and said the prosecution's star witness actually pocketed the millions in tobacco kickbacks that Singson allegedly delivered to Estrada in four boxes.

CHAVIT SINGSON: P70 million can fit in four boxes. Estrada is just reading his script.

In his second testimony at the 5-year-old trial, Estrada also alleged that before he assumed the presidency, Singson took P1.4 billion in advances and payments for overpriced and nonexisting construction projects in 1997-98.

Estrada and his defense team sought to discredit Singson, who claimed the ousted President received P138 million worth of tobacco excise tax payoffs from Ilocos Sur in four boxes.

The former actor turned-politician said a reenactment at the Ilocos Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the money could not fit in four boxes.

"That just goes to show that he is a liar," Estrada told the court.

But the Ilocos Sur governor told reporters during a break that he never testified that the entire sum fit the boxes. Singson said he gave Estrada directly P70 million and the rest went to Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, and an Estrada associate, Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Singson said the P70 million could fill four boxes.

Prosecutors accuse Estrada of amassing

STAFF A10

"THE STAR WITNESS IS A LIAR," former President Estrada testifies for the second time on Wednesday at the Sandiganbayan. The prosecution case rests almost entirely on the testimony of Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson who claimed Estrada took millions of pesos in tobacco tax kickbacks and amassed billions in "jueteng" payoffs. MARY JOAN

SC clear on people's initiative: Needs enabling law

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT legally pursue a people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution because a Supreme Court ruling is clear on the need for an enabling law, an official of the tribunal's press information office said yesterday.

In a phone interview with justice reporters, lawyer Glee Guerra, director of the press information office under Ismael Khan Jr., pointed out that the high court had already ruled on Republic Act No. 6735.

"Unfortunately, on RA 6735, the Initiative and Referendum Act of 1989, [the court ruled that it was]... inadequate to cover the system of a people's initiative," Guerra said.

"Whatever their plans are, they would have to take into consideration that there is a decision promulgated by the court, and until it is reversed, they have to abide by it," she said of the groups and agencies actively pursuing a signature campaign for Charter change.

"What they need is an enabling

SC CLEAR A6

US court may grant bail to Lacson's former aide

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FORMER PNP SUPT. MICHAEL Ray Aquino, detained in the United States in connection with allegations he passed on pilfered intelligence papers to Philippine opposition leaders, may be granted bail before his trial in October, an NBI official said yesterday.

Quoting US Assistant Attorney Karl Bush of the District of New Jersey, NBI Interpol Division chief Ricardo Diaz said there was a possibility that a US court might grant Aquino provisional liberty "because he did not commit a heinous crime."

"He was only charged with conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent, which could cost him a total of 15 years

US COURT A10

Red leaders urge NPA to expand use of land mines vs military

AS THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY MARKS ITS 37th founding anniversary today, its leaders urged guerrillas to employ land mines in operations against the Philippine military in spite of international sanctions against their use.

The central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in an e-mail statement, called on its armed wing to mount attacks, using land mines, especially against the lines and means of transport, installations, depots and other facilities vital to the government's counterinsurgency campaign.

"We can inflict casualties on an advancing enemy force by using land mines, small mines and snipers," said the CPP in an e-mailed statement.

CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said tactical offensives would continue every time there was an opportunity to carry out a successful operation.

The NPA's use of land mines has been criticized by the military who said the weapon had long been banned by the United Nations in the conduct of armed hostilities.

Established on March 29, 1969, the NPA had

RED LEADERS A6

PRESIDENT ARROYO in grave question at the 25th graduation rites of the PNP Academy in Silang, Cavite. With her are Vice President De Castro and Interior Secretary Puno.

Police officer in bulletproof car shot dead

IN COLD BLOOD: The bullet that pierced this car's glass window killed Chief Insp. Renato Maraaigue at the corner of Jacinto and Jabson Streets in Pasig City. JOHN BALONG

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CHIEF INSP. RENATO MARASIGAN DROVE his bulletproof Mitsubishi Pajero out of his garage past 10 a.m. yesterday to report for work.

Five minutes later, as he was slowing down at the corner of Jabson and Jacinto Streets in front of a health center at Barangay McKinley, Pasig City, four men wearing maroon shirts casually walked up to his white Pajero and opened fire, killing him.

The 55-year-old policeman suffered five bullet wounds to his face and head. The Pajero's armor that he and his wife Vivian had invested in for added security some three years ago did not protect him from the assassins' gunfire.

To be dead sure, one of the gunmen even walked to the driver's side where Marasigan lay bloodied. He opened the door and fired another shot to Marasigan's head, said Pasig police investigation chief, Chief Insp. Dennis Macalintal.

The tragic death ended some 30 years of

POLICE B7

To save 'castle,' SVD priests to put on waiter's uniform

By Christine V. Esguerra

IF IT'S APRIL 6 AND THE WAITER hearing your dinner looks suspiciously like your favorite priest from the Divine Word Missionaries, he probably is.

On the evening of that day, certain servants of the Lord—bejeweled ordinands Fr. Jerry Orbos and at least eight other SVD priests—will take on their apostolic role quite literally and serve dinner to some 3,000 guests at "The Castle."

Now why would Orbos and company doff their cassock for a pair lacong and an apron? To kick off the ambitious project of raising P15 million by 2008 for The Castle's much-needed rehabilitation.

The distinctive structure is the 73-year-old Bustamante Building, the first put up by German SVD priests to mark the birth of the spiraling Christ the King Seminary on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

No one's taking the waiter job lightly, according to Fr. Cris Cordero, who heads the fund-raising project called "Panglalim ang Kastilyo at Kristo."

This week, Cordero and his fellow SVD priests—Orbos, Arlo Yap, Glenn Gomez, Pabs Tagaca, Gerry Donato, Becky Dominic, Ring Mallog and Ely Mata—will handle a crash course on restaurant work, including how to walk with a tray, where to put the utensils, when to serve the courses, etc.

TO SAVE A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Biazon presses GMA on Mayuga report

By Philip C. Tubeza

OPPOSITION SEN. RODOLFO BIAZON YESTERDAY ACCUSED President Macapagal-Arroyo of "obstructing" constitutional processes by refusing to provide the Commission on Appointments with a copy of the report of the Armand Perron investigation into the "Hello Garci" tapes.

Biazon, who sits on the CA national defense committee, passed no objections to the confirmation of Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, the author of the report, who breezed through his CA confirmation hearings yesterday and reinforced the same day by the plenary.

Asked why he did not grill Mayuga, Biazon said "he has no power rule or play to rule. The issue is out of his hands."

Biazon said Mayuga could not be questioned about the report as it was covered by Executive Order 464 which also prevented the admiral from talking about it. EO 464 requires executive branch officials to get clearance from the President to appear before congressional hearings.

"This is now in the mercy of the President. We cannot force her for as long as she continues to invoke EO 464 and for as long as the Supreme Court fails to render a ruling on the constitutionality of EO 464," Biazon said.

The senator, who chairs the Senate national defense committee that is investigating the "Hello Garci" scandal, said the Mayuga report should be made public to help settle allegations that the administration cheated in the 2004 presidential election and used the military for the purpose.

He said it was crucial to his committee investigation as four generals were mentioned in the Garci tapes as having been allegedly involved in election fraud.

He said the President was obstructing the functions of the CA by not providing the commission with a copy of the report.

"I am just wondering, is there something in the report that is preventing the President from observing it to the public?" he said.

The CA committee on national defense recommended the confirmation of Mayuga, the Philippine Navy's flag officer in command, and 21 other military officers after elevating that list of only 40 nominees. Mayuga was not cross-examined to answer questions from the CA members.

Also yesterday, Biazon filed Resolution No. 477 calling for a Senate probe into the reported plot to kill the President at the Philippine Military Academy graduation ceremonies last March 23.

"The announcement of the existence of an assassination plot on the life of the President is disturbing. If it is true, we need to examine the prevailing laws on national security to provide for maximum protection to the President, not just President Arroyo," Biazon told reporters.

He said he wanted to know if the administration was using the alleged assassination plot "to pave the way for more repressive measures."

ORPHAN GRADUATES

A young woman who was orphaned by the landslide that killed hundreds in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, offers a prayer and her graduation cap to her parents during yesterday's graduation rites. In the background is the mountain that collapsed on the fateful morning on February 17. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ...)

RP hosts 'Oceans 38' to save world seas

By Blanche S. Rivera

GALLTHEM TO BE OCEANS' 38.

The Philippines, along with Portugal and Indonesia, is leading 38 Asian countries and 23 Europe Union member states in one of the biggest international efforts to save the world's oceans and marine resources from further depletion.

The country hosted yesterday the opening of the first technical working group meeting on the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Oceans Initiative, drawing environment officials from the ASEM nations, as well as representatives from the European Commission.

The ASEM's initiative comes as reports estimated that 75 percent of the world's populations will be living in coastal areas by 2025, pushing unprecedented pressure on the world's marine resources.

The meeting, held in Makati City until tomorrow, highlighted the seas of East Asia, which has a combined coastline of 234,000 km and about 1 billion people on its coasts.

A study by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (Pemsea) showed that 11 percent of coral reefs in East Asia, which has a third of the earth's coral reefs, have collapsed while nearly half are in critical condition.

Seventy percent of the region's mangrove areas have been converted or neglected, and 20 to 80 percent of its sea grass beds were in poor state.

"If nothing is done, given their current rates of loss, the remaining coral reefs will be wiped out within 20 years and the mangroves will be gone by the year 2050," Chua Thia Eng, director of Pemsea said in his presentation at the Peninsula Manila Hotel yesterday.

"The severity of the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean is a consequence of the rampant destruction of these habitats in many of the affected countries," he said.

East Asia covers the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea, Sulu-Celebes Seas and the Indonesian seas. It accounts for 91 percent of the world's fish catch and 60 percent of aquacultural products.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the UNESCO noted that 73 percent of the 1,321 marine waters of the United Nations who committed to sustainable development during the summit in South Africa in 2002 have failed to meet the target of eliminating illegal fishing and overfishing.

The IOC also said that the goal of establishing networks of marine protected areas, which should be in place by 2012, would be achieved only by 2085 as the rate the nations are going.

Only five percent of the coral reefs in the Philippines, one of the world's 17 megabiodiversity nations, are in excellent condition while the rest are either critically threatened or at risk.

Seedling bank finds an ally in Ombudsman

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE MANILA SEEDLING BANK Foundation Inc., entered an initial victory in its war battle with the Quezon City government after the Office of the Ombudsman declared the local government to sue after the National Housing Authority (NHA) for lack of legal capacity.

In a letter to Quezon City prosecutor Victor Endrijas, the Ombudsman's Public Assistance Bureau said the government should collect the taxes from the NHA and not the MSBFI because the NHA was the owner of the property.

"We refer to your attempt to collect taxes from Manila Seedling Bank Foundation, Quezon City, which is not the registered owner of the land. Kindly address collection of taxes to registered owner, National Housing Authority," lawyer Marlyn Barrameda of the Ombudsman's office said.

The letter from the Ombudsman's office was dated Dec. 13, 2005 but the MSBFI received it only this month.

"At least they will not bother us anymore. We are not liable. Their fight is with the NHA now," MSBFI president Lucita Bernal said in a phone interview.

'Tax delinquent'

The Quezon City government is claiming ownership of the 104 seven-hectare lot where the MSB... 91 is situated, because it said the foundation had failed to pay some P39 million in real property taxes since its inception in 1976.

Endrijas issued a notice of tax delinquency to the MSBFI in December 2005 and warned that the property would be auctioned off in December 2005 if the foundation failed to settle the unpaid taxes.

The MSBFI contested Endrijas's motion, but the Quezon City government decided to proceed with the auction anyway. It ended up having them to the property when no one turned up to bid for the lot.

The Quezon City government plans to convert a commercial hub in the 15-hectare area comprising the East Triangle and South Triangle district of Quezon City.

Results of bar exams out today

By Armand N. Nocum

FOR THOSE WHO TOOK THE BAR EXAMINATIONS IN September last year, today will either be a moment of great joy or sadness.

A total of 5,162 law graduates, the biggest batch in the country's 100-year history, completed the 2005 bar exams in the hope of joining the ranks of lawyers in the country.

Associate Justice Ruben T. Reyes, chair of the 2005 bar examinations, said the results will be displayed today on wide-screen monitors strategically placed at the Supreme Court's front yard along Padre Burgos Street in Manila.

Bar examination results will also be posted on the court's website — www.supremecourt.gov.ph.

For the first time since it was ratified in 1987, the Supreme Court applied in the 2005 bar examinations the "five-strike" rule which limits to five the number of times a candidate could take the bar exams.

Through the country's history, the outcome of the bar exams has compelled hitherto unknown individuals to national prominence.

Based on the court's pre-war bar results, former President Manuel Roxas made history in 1913 when he topped the exams with an average score of 92.

The following year, Manuel Reyes surpassed the record of Roxas with 93.

In 1939, Delia Inez Andres Ziga, who later became woman, made history by becoming the first woman to top the bar exams with a score of 89.4.

It took seven years later for former Supreme Court Justice Cecilia A. Muñoz-Palma to break Ziga's record by scoring 92.6.

In 1946, Urdaneta Macapagal, who would later become President, placed first in the exams with a score of 89.85.

Three years later, former strongman Ferdinand E. Marcos topped the bar by scoring 91.75. Marcos reviewed for the exams while facing indictments for the alleged murder of a political enemy of his father.

Drug lords turn to floating shabu labs

By Alcuin Papa

THE COUNTRY'S TOP ANTI-NARCOTICS cop said yesterday that drug syndicates were now using yachts anchored off the coast as "floating drug laboratories" to manufacture shabu and other drugs peddled illegally throughout the country.

Police Director Marcelo Ilo, chief of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, told reporters at a forum in Greenhills, San Juan, yesterday that the Coast Guard and perhaps even the Philippine Navy should step up patrols of the country's coastline to go after the offshore drug manufacturers.

"Maybe we can coordinate with our Airforce for helpforce. Drug syndicates can't afford to... risk their chemists on land, so why not manufacture the stuff out in the sea," Ilo said.

Ilo said intelligence reports indicated that drug manufacturers had shifted to producing shabu aboard ships instead of land laboratories in the wake of successive police raids on shabu laboratories in Metro Manila.

The country's coastline measures 36,289 kilometers, almost twice that of the United States.

Marooned at sea, 3 American tourists, 4 others rescued off Misamis

POLICE RESCUED SEVEN PEOPLE, including three American tourists, who were stranded for three days at sea, officials said on yesterday.

Jessa Verzosa, a police provincial, said police sent tourist boats to bring the stranded tourists to a coastal village in Misamis Oriental after local fishermen reported a boat adrift.

"For three days, they were marooned on the sea and luckily they were spotted by fishermen in the area," said Verzosa, adding the American tourists had been brought to Cebu to be reunited with their friends.

Verzosa said the three tourists and four others left Bohol island on March 25 to Cagayan island on the northwestern tip of Mindanao, but the engine of their wooden boat failed at mid-sea.

The boat drifted towards the mainland Mindanao island, where they were rescued by coastal police. Reuters

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Dr. Benjamin E. A. Concepcion Jr., Chairman of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, is one of the country's pioneers in Endoscopic Sinus Surgery. In 1988, he took a course in Functional Endoscopic Surgery at the prestigious Johns Hopkins University. He pursued his passion for medical excellence with training fellowships at Charing Cross Royal Brompton (England), University of Utrecht (The Netherlands), and the University of Graz (Austria). Dr. Concepcion is a co-regular visiting faculty for endoscopic sinus surgery at Seoul National University in Korea.

Dr. Gil M. Vicente, Chief of the Section of Rhinolaryngology, is also one of the pioneers in Endoscopic Sinus Surgery in the Philippines. He trained at the University of Marburg, Fulda State Hospital in Germany and University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA. He is a Past President of the International Symposium on Infection and Allergy of the Nose and guest faculty in various international meetings.

Dr. Wladelyn G. Pangalinan, a Head and Neck specialist, trained at the Head and Neck Center of the University of Pennsylvania. She handles testing and management of conditions pertaining to smell and taste disorders.

Dr. Joel A. Ramoscolas is an expert in Image-Guided Surgery. This high-tech procedure for ENT surgery, which provides surgeons a clear and precise multi-view of the patient's nose and paranasal sinuses, is offered only at St. Luke's. Dr. Ramoscolas trained at the University Hospital of Bern (Switzerland). He works with the surgical team to determine the exact location of disease.

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PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEAT PROCESSORS, INC. (PAMPI)

Sec. Panganiban Inducts New PAMPI Officers Today.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban will induct the new set of officers and directors of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors of the Philippines, Inc. (PAMPI) at the prime tourist destination of Panglao Island in Bohol on March 30, coinciding with the group's 17th anniversary celebration.

PAMPI groups 22 of the largest food companies in the Philippines, with combined annual revenues of P5to billion, representing 50 percent of the country's total income from the meat processing sector.

With the theme "Fostering a Strong Partnership Between the Government and Private Sector for Economic Recovery", the induction to be held at the Bohol Beach Club at 7 p.m. highlights the contribution of the multi-billion meat processing industry to the Philippine economy.

To be inducted into the PAMPI board are Felix Tiukinhoy, Jr. of Virginia Food, Inc., who was inducted for the eighth time as president; Allan Castro of the Purefoods-Hormel Co., Inc., vice president; Julie Marcelo of Nestle Quality Foods, Inc., secretary; Joyce Ahuezua of Double Farms, treasurer; and Jerome Ong of Foodpinoy Inc., PRO.

Elected as board directors of PAMPI are Roy Lapid of R. Lapid's Chicharon, Ricky Hizon of Pampanga's Best, Butch Prieto of Swift Foods, Inc., and Ted Pe of The Pacific Meat Co., Inc.

According to Francisco J. Buencamino, who was reappointed as PAMPI executive director, the event will draw attention to the importance of forging a close alliance between the government, particularly the Department of Agriculture, and the private sector represented by local producers and meat processors in enabling available to the Filipino consumers high-quality and affordable meat products.

Buencamino noted that the local meat processing industry provides 60,000 direct and indirect jobs and supports businesses such as packaging, canning, advertising, printing, media, retail trade, among others.

Buencamino lauded the Department of Agriculture for initiating programs that help hog raisers and other producers upgrade their production capacity and technical capability to meet the product specifications of meat processors.

At the same time, the PAMPI executive director emphasized the importance of strengthening the partnership between domestic producers and meat processors to ensure the steady supply of good quality manufacturing grade meat, which serves as the raw materials for the meat packers.

He said an open line of communication between the two sectors will result in more vigorous meat industry, since this will encourage domestic producers to respond to the raw material requirements of the processors in terms of quality, quantity and price.

The meat processors, he added, are willing to increase their orders from the domestic producers as long as standards are met.

Buencamino said the growth of the industry hinges on the capability of the domestic producers and meat processors to produce low-cost meat products, which now account for about two-thirds of the meat industry in the Philippines.

He said most of these low-cost meat products are in the forms of fresh / processed meat sold at wet markets and canned goods like corned beef, karne norte, meat loaf, beef loaf, hotdogs and sausages, which are readily available at all distribution channels nationwide.

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NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

Mining investors' fears on RP allayed

SINGAPORE – FOREIGN INVESTORS have nothing to worry about investing in the Philippines despite a review of the country's mining law following protests from the country's powerful Catholic Church, head of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said on Wednesday.

"I doubt very much that it will ever change. That would lead to a loss of confidence (in the part of the Philippine government and the Philippine President. So no way," said Secretary Philip Ramaekers, president of the chamber and head of Sarugan, the country's oldest mining company.

The Philippines is dependent on foreign investment to tap an estimated $1 trillion in mineral wealth, but some analysts have said Manila's apparent willingness to rewrite laws could jeopardize efforts to attract $6.5 billion in funding for the once mighty mining sector.

The government has said an examination of the law, which allows for full foreign ownership of local mines, was simply to address environmental concerns raised by the country's powerful Catholic bishops and not a re-write of ownership rules.

Rich in deposits

Ramaekers said the Church had first urged the government to repeal the law in 1996 after an accident at a copper mine.

"This second call is probably going to lead to nowhere, especially after the Philippine government has undertaken so much effort into promoting the mining industry," Ramaekers told Reuters on the sidelines of a mining conference.

"In fact, the mining industry through the Chamber of Mines, has already reached out to the Catholic Church for a dialogue for us to explain to them the benefits of (the law are, and what benefit the mining industry brings to the community," he said.

The Philippines ranks among the world's top five economies for deposits of copper, nickel and iron ore and is geographically closer to resource-hungry China than the region's other major mining centre Indonesia.

But political instability and legal problems have discouraged investors from pouring money into the Philippines.

There have been more than a dozen coup attempts since the ousting of former strong man Ferdinand Marcos.

Last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced a coup plot and declared a week-long state of emergency, which she said gave her the power, if necessary, to take over privately owned utilities.

Australia's Lafayette Mining became the first foreign firm in nearly 10 years to develop a Philippine mine but cyanide leaks last year sparked a wave of anti-mining protests, especially among the mainly Catholic bishops.

Ramaekers said investors should not hesitate to invest in the Philippines, adding that President Arroyo had personally invited mining executives to invest in the country.

"Investors should not worry at all," he said.

"Even if the government is keen on amending the law, it would take several years before the law would then be changed," he said. Reuters

SC clear on 'people's initiative': Needs enabling law

From page A1

number in the [1997] decision, that discussing number still includes two current justices, including the chief justice. So maybe he (Abalos) feels there is a possibility that this ruling can be overruled, but as of now, this is still the controlling jurisprudence on the matter," she said.

As for Franc Gamos quoted him as saying that the gathering of signatures was "part of the freedom of expression of the citizenry."

Fair warning

Senate President Franklin Drilon told reporters that Gonzales' argument cannot hold, cited for contempt by the high court if they insist on continuing the signature drive.

Drilon was referring to the Supreme Court's March 1997 ruling on the lack of enabling law to support such an initiative to amend the Charter should never an "ad hoc" setting not only in the [Gonzales] but [also] in all election exercises scheduled on the signatures.

Without an enabling law for such an exercise, the validation of signatures has "no legal basis" and constitutes a "clear and unequivocal defiance" of the high court, Drilon said, adding:

"Without (doubt) take heed of this decision of the Supreme Court and direct his regional directors ... not to proceed with the verification of the signatures."

Meanwhile, Comelec Commissioner Ruben Borromeo said he had no objection to the exercise that the poll body was barred from entertaining a petition for people's initiative in the absence of an enabling law.

"Where that [petition] is filed, we will deliberate on the issue whether we will admit it. But I'm not the only one; it's a collegiate body..." he told reporters after being confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

This was a complete departure from the remarks Borromeo made before the commission en banc on Tuesday when he said: "As soon as a petition is filed, we have no recourse but to dismiss the petition."

Borromeo said yesterday that the media had "twisted (in one of my interviews) [words] to suppose that I am receptive of people's initiative."

"That is far from the truth," he said, stressing that he was merely echoing the high court's ruling that the Comelec was permanently enjoined from entertaining any petition.

"PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE IN GLORIA" or PIG masks are worn by members of the militant group Bayan as a protest rally at the UP Diliman's Oblation to condemn the signature drive for Charter change. According to Bayan Rep. Rizal Hontiveros, the efforts to change the Constitution reek of desperation and extreme evasion. EDWIN BACASMAS

Borromeo also did not rule out the possibility that the tribunal might reverse itself if the cases in our seas brought before it.

Senate resolution

Senators again voiced notice that they would vigorously oppose the conduct of a people's initiative because of legal obstacles.

Twenty-one senators have adopted a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the signature campaign to introduce changes in the Constitution through barangay assemblies initiated by the Department of Interior and Local Government was illegal.

Those who signed the resolution were Drilon, Majority Leader Francisco Pangilinan, Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senators Jinkee Arroyo, Ralph Recto, Ramon Revilla Jr., Manuel Roxas II and Manuel Villar Jr.

Senators Edgardo Angara, who had argued that a people's initiative enforced a working democracy, and Manuel "Lito" Lapid, a staunch administration ally, did not sign the resolution.

At press time, no copy of the resolution had been released to the media, but senators confirmed that 21 of them had signed it.

"We are not against any Charter change per se, but it should be done in a manner that is not contrary to law and the Constitution," Pangilinan said.

Immovable object

"This only shows that the Senate is an immovable object that won't be moved in both form and attempt to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law," Pimentel said.

The senators' position is that the people's initiative is illegal because there is no enabling law to cover it, as pointed out by the Supreme Court in March 1997.

But Drilon and Pangilinan did not discount resorting with any bill providing for an enabling law for a people's initiative if ordered through the proper channels.

"I will support any bill ensuring that either the House or the Senate which would implement this constitutional provision on the people's initiative," Drilon said.

"If it ensures to ensure that the genuine voice of the people, the common folk, is heard, 'yes,' Pangilinan said.

But Pimentel declared that he would not concur with such a bill: "Not at this point while [President Macapagal-Arroyo] is there..."

'Stare decisis'

Senator Santiago said that under the legal doctrine of "stare decisis," the high court should follow and uphold its decision in Santiago vs. Comelec because "the facts in 1997 and 2006 are substantially the same."

"In 1997, there were no law providing for the procedure to change the Charter by means of a people's initiative. Up to now, there is no such law," she said in a statement.

Moreover, since the facts in 1997 and 2006 are substantially the same, then under the 'stare decisis' doctrine, the Supreme Court is obliged to follow the ruling in Santiago vs Comelec," she said.

Santiago was the main petitioner in the case, successfully arguing that the tribunal should junk a petition to amend the 1987 Constitution through a people's initiative during the administration of President Fidel Ramos.

"I am not surprised because by reason of a hoary dictum, but I have grown even more heartsick by news that certain administration officials will try to convince the Supreme Court to overrule the decision in the 1997 (Santiago) case. Apparently, initiative called least sign to Comelec," the senator said.

She added: "In that case, I was not only the main petitioner, but I also orally argued the case to the Supreme Court. It was a hard-won victory because I was arguing with the man who cheated me of the 1992 presidency, Fidel Ramos."

She cannot with stealing the elections, Ramos wanted to run for a second term through a people's initiative that he obviously planned to manipulate. Fortunately, a wiser Supreme Court decided to stand up to the Ramos."

Referendum

At a press conference, Abalos indicated that barring legal obstacles, the referendum for the proposed Charter change vis-a-vis people's initiative may take place in July.

Abalos said it would take the Comelec 15-30 days to finish verifying the signatures.

"The Comelec can approve the petition in a short time. It's the verification that would take a longer time to complete," he told reporters.

Following the provisions of RA 6735, the poll body has 30 days to determine if the petition is making. However, it is up to the Comelec has to set the referendum not earlier than 45 days or not later than 90 days.

If it takes the Comelec a month to verify and another month to decide on the petition's sufficiency, the referendum may be held in the middle of July based on the calculations of the bureau.

Abalos' timetable dismisses the possibility of any petition or group questioning the initiative before the Supreme Court.

"I am not worried because by reason of a hoary dictum, but I have grown even more heartsick by news that certain administration officials will try to convince the Supreme Court to overrule the decision in the 1997 (Santiago) case. It was a hard-won victory because I was arguing with the man who cheated me of the 1992 presidency, Fidel Ramos.

"Not content with stealing the elections, Ramos wanted to run for a second term through a people's initiative that he obviously planned to manipulate. Fortunately, a wiser Supreme Court decided to stand up to the Ramos."

'Signature to surpass 5.6 million'

THE UNION OF LOCAL AUthorities of the Philippines (Ulap) said its campaign might just come up with 10-12 million signatures in view of a Pulse Asia survey indicating that the number of Filipinos who believed in Charter change had risen to 43 percent.

Bohol Gov. and Ulap president Erico Aumentado said the people's initiative would easily breach the constitutional requirement of 5.6 million signatures across wide.

Rice rations

He denied allegations that money and rice rations had been used hands to produce the signatures.

"Someone was involved in the signature gathering. The opposition should not compare this true manifestation of the people's will to their noisy rallies attended by paid participants," Aumentado said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that while he wanted to look into the alleged involvement of BJMP personnel and barangay officials in the signature drive connected with the people's initiative, he had yet to receive a single complaint.

"They have to show proof. There is not even a single complaint filed against any ULAP official. I have not even observed any ULAP official that might have been involved in the alleged bribery for signatures. How can we initiate an investigation?" he said.

Gov't money

As the conclusion of the commencement exercises at the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite, Pena also told reporters that government funds were not being used in the signature drive.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunyi also dismissed allegations that government money was being used to finance the Charter change bid.

"Those are private groups like Bayan ng Bayan. I believe they are working hard and they have their own funding," he said.

JDV: Con-Ass takes back seat

IN THE HOUSE, THE 12TH-century assembly (Con-Ass) espoused by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. will take the reins in order to start while the local government units pursue a people's initiative to amend the Charter.

In what De Venecia described as a "historic move," the political parties comprising the majority in the House of Representatives yesterday decided to give high priority to the signature drive.

He told the reporters that the move to get 12 percent of the number of registered voters to introduce a direct amendment to the Charter would have to be principally undertaken by local units of only one subject matter—the shift from a bicameral parliament system to the unicameral parliamentary system."

Consequently, the Speaker dropped the "right now removal of constitutionally contained in the draft constitution outline prepared by the House committee on constitutional amendments.

The package of amendatory includes reforms in the political structure and the lifting of economic restrictions.

But Representatives Rhoda Ilo Domogan (Cebu), Bagabi Grey and Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur), vice chairs of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said it would be unwise for local executives to ask the Supreme Court to clarify its March 1997 ruling.

House Majority leader Prospero Nograles, for his part, implied to the supposed 30 lawmakers whom Minority Leader Francis Escudero claimed on Tuesday to have signified willingness to oppose the proposed Con-Ass.

"Minipol (English)," said Nograles, pointing out that 17 of the 30 would soon jump to the other camp.

He called on the opposition to look at the supposed reality on the ground, saying: "You can see the signatures, not the people play at the grass-roots level."

No job crisis; Filipinos just choosy—Favila

From page A1

He said he based his observations on his conversations with a number of headhunters and corporate executive looking for workers.

"I don't think people should complain of unemployment if they'll just get the jobs that are available for free," Favila said.

The Labor Education and Research Network (LEARN) said on Tuesday that if the number of unemployed (2.6 million) and underemployed (6.9 million) and those not looking for jobs (2.1 million) were combined, there would be 10.6 million out of the 36 million workforce that would need jobs.

Clearly, the government then is a jobs deficit of crisis proportions," said Clarence Pascual, a senior researcher at LEARN.

Lack of desire

But Favila said the unemployment problem was more of the lack of desire to work rather than the availability of jobs.

"Some Filipinos have a tendency to aspire to be the vice president immediately upon hiring or they want to be able to pick the class and place of work," Favila, who said "get what they want choose to just wait till their ideal job falls on their lap," Favila said.

He cited the experience of the Korean shipbuilder Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction at a recent job fair.

The company made a minimum of 7,000 workers in line with its plan to build 16 ships at its $721-million shipbuilding facility on the Subic Peninsula.

Favila said Hanjin found many qualified engineers, welders, pipe fitters, painters, crane operators and agriculturists, but most of them balked at the prospect of relocating to Subic.

Graveyard shift

Favila said the Filipinos' hesitation was evident in the call center business in most applicants backed out after learning that they would have to start from the graveyard shift.

"Call centers offer a minimum of P15,000 a month and yet they have a hard time finding jobs. This is why some call center operators are now going beyond college graduates and going after second- and third-tier graduates to fill up their manpower requirements," the trade secretary said.

More part-time jobs

The National Statistics Office's Labor Force Survey in January found that the fishing sector lost 3,000 jobs last year, mining 9,000, manufacturing 14,000, electricity and social work 12,000, and construction, 73,000.

But part-time jobs increased by 411,000, which accounted for the bulk of new jobs. The number of unpaid family workers increased by 300,000 or 53 percent of the new job creation, while the number of own-account or self-employed workers rose by 263,000, according to the NSO.

Rene Olivares, director of the School of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of the Philippines, said the data showed that employment in the formal sector was shrinking and employment in the informal sector of the labor market was growing.

The numbers "indicate employment stagnation...Many more jobs being lost and replaced by low-paying ones...and migration to subsistence employment," said the Philippine Business Leaders Forum.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has promised to create 1.1 million jobs this year to help reduce the big dream the unemployment rate...but the jobs created last year fell short of the 1.3 million jobs.

Ms Arroyo has been criticized for her failure to translate the benefits of a strong peso, robust GDP growth and low interest rates into more jobs and lower cost of goods and services.

Red leaders urge NPA to expand use of land mines …

From page A1

60 initial members, consisting of the remnant fighters of the old CPP and university-based radicals. They were armed with nine automatic rifles and 26 single-shot rifles and handguns.

Today, the NPA claims to be operating in more than 100 guerrilla fronts across the country.

Terrorists

President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration said it would not be cowed by NPA threats.

"The government will continue to defend its citizens against the godless terrorists who use their arms to massacre innocent Christians by ambushes, bombs and arbitrary citizen executions to serve diabolical objective to seize power through violent means," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunyi said in a statement.

Malacañang used to be careful in calling the NPA terrorists in order to save the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front, umbrella organization for various leftist organizations.

The CPP-NPA and NDF have promoted their inclusion in the list of terrorist organizations by the US government and the European Union that piled up their woes in international funds.

Uncovering left-right alliance

But after uncovering a supposed alliance between the communists and rebel soldiers, Malacañang has apparently taken off its gloves in dealing with what it called the historical enemies of the state.

Bunyi said the Arroyo had been fully support for efforts of the military and police to flush out the NPA in the countryside.

JOAQUIN MADLOS: He rubbed us as military officer this month.

A rebel spokesperson said guerrillas had maintained informal contact with disgruntled military officers more than a month after the Arroyo pronounced an alleged plot by leftist and rightist groups to overthrow her.

Junior military officers on the ground as well as "some higher level" officers were in "informal discussions" with rebel leaders, said Jorge Madlos, also known as Ka Dato, an NDF spokesperson in Mindanao.

Madlos said the last time he spoke with a military officer was this month.

"We are just exchanging views. We have sovereign means of toppling the Arroyo Administration [,]" Madlos said by telephone from his mountain hideout in Mindanao.

He said there had been overtures of defections from the soldiers, but stressed the movement was "prepared to accept them individually."

Valid complaints

"They have valid complaints and we are happy that they realize the current government is not for the people," Madlos said.

On Feb. 24, Ms Arroyo declared a week-long state of national emergency in a bid to stop a "cabal" of communist rebels, rogue soldiers, opposition politicians and businessmen from ousting her.

More than 20 officers and men have been detained and face court-martial, while 16 opposition figures, including six leftist legislators, have been charged with rebellion.

Shortly after the alleged coup was aborted, Ms Arroyo issued Presidential Proclamation 1017 on the ground to quell controversies. He also warned them that any future attempts would be crushed.

The military top brass also said that the chain of command was intact, even as it said earlier that they were mopping up "isolated elements" in the ranks.

Reports from AFP Staffs T. Mallari Jr., Bill Sanchez, James Reveche and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Police officer in bulletproof car shot dead

Front page 1

police service for Mascariñas, deputy chief of the Intelligence and Investigation Division of the Philippine National Police Internal Affairs Service. He left behind seven children.

Mascariñas, who was promoted chief inspector recently, acted as spokesperson for the IAS group that investigated the widely publicized police operations in Dasigan Grande Law Site 7 in which three suspected car thieves were killed.

Relatives of the slain men—relatives Dulay, Ryann Grace Mercado and Aaron Estillore Cachuang—said the operations of the Traffic Management Group are overkill.

Motives

"There are many possibilities ... the number one is, maybe, they were jealous [because] he is humble, and he is very vocal. There are many theories I am considering, but I am still deciphering it. After this, I would pave my theory together," said Mascariñas's distraught wife Gloria.

"My husband was very meticulous. When he sees something wrong in the [managing the police], he would be very vocal about it. I've told him to stop meddling with others, that we have a good life and we don't need politics. [But] he thought he just killed for us to survive," she said.

For investigators, the dueling [unclear] was still sizzling.

"We are still establishing the motive. But it was planned because there were four people posted on all routes there. Three days [as] verified as an ambush, synchronized Pattern," said Pasay police chief Senior Supt. Romeo Abuying.

Abuying said 11 slugs (shots) from .45-cal. pistols and 9mm found in the ambush site. Investigators said the Pajero was bulletproof for shots from .38-cal. and 9-mm pistols. "As far as I know, three would not pierce either window, Back .40-cal. Pistols cans," she said.

Communists involved?

The Eastern Police District director, Chief Supt. Chitchinquez Mendoza, theorized that communist rebels might be responsible.

The shooting coincided with the 37th [unclear] anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines' armed wing, the New People's Army.

"The [illegible] are chosen as enemies. Because in the government is their enemy, and [the] one their target of opportunity ... and [as] by the style of the shooting ... that he was ambushed," Antipolo mayor Ed reporters.

Mascariñas' wife however thought such was unlikely.

"That's only if he chased the MSI ... But you see my husband helps the masses. I know [for] my husband does not chase common people. He only fights big people, not the small ones," the widow said.

Gunmen did not hide faces

Quezon prosecutors, Mendiluni told the inquirer that the four gunmen did not bother to hide their faces. Police have released on artist's sketch of two of the gunmen based on witnesses' accounts.

Abuying said both gunmen were around 30 years old, between 5'4" and 5'5" tall and were of medium build. One wore his hair long, while another had curly hair.

The Pasay police has launched a manhunt to apprehend the gunmen.

Mascariñas's wife said she and her husband had been [unclear] in the past few days, as she noticed that they were being tailed by [illegible].

Cowardly act

"The other night, when we were on our way home, I noticed that men on board a jeep had recklessly followed us. I told my husband that [illegible] after we had followed us," but he said he didn't answer. I just told him that next time, he should not take the same route, because he could be ambushed easily."

and [illegible]'s wife.

Phil Director General Avelino Lumibao condemned the slaying in a "cowardly act" and ordered the Pasay police to go after the killers.

Colleagues expressed shock and disbelief. One officer said the ambush might have something to do with the cars that he was handling.

"He was handling many high-profile cases, and many of the cases were highly confidential," said Wilfred Tacagda, chief of the administrative and financial division of IAS, one of the investigative arms of the Philippine National Police.

"Very religious"

The slain, which numerous officers nationwide, investigators charges against policemen it directly involved in kidnapping rings.

Colleagues knew the slain say to be "very religious," and his family [illegible], according to Tacagda. [illegible] reported [illegible] A. delivered.

THE MOMENT of Chief Supt. Romeo Mascariñas' wraps over his lifeless body after the ambush that happened in broad daylight on a busy Pasay City street.

MECHANICS

1. To join, buy any participating Minola Cooking Oil or Margarine and Minola promo wraps with alphanumeric promo codes printed on the labels or stickers, which the consumer has to text to earn entries.

2. Register via text using this format: MIN REG home*age*gender*address. A reply will then be sent to inform the status of successful registration. The registration info of a participant will be locked to the cellphone number he/she used.

SAMPLE REGISTRATION: MIN REG Sheila Reyes*25*F*25 Dumaguete St., Sta Ana, Manila

3. Text in the unique promo code, plus a 2-number combination from numbered 1 to 49.

FORMAT
MIN <promo code> <1st number><2nd number>
(The 1st number and 2nd number can be of any 1 or 2 digit number combination)

SAMPLE ENTRY TEXT
MIN MILA COMBI 5 49R

4. A participant can only send one promo code once.

5. By adding the 2-number combination to every promo code, a participant can double his prize money for the weekly draws.

6. There will be 10 weekly draws. Every week, one (1) winner of P100,000.00 will be drawn.

7. There is one pre-selected number combination for each of the 10 weekly draws.

8. In the event that the drawn winner for each of the weekly draw has failed the pre-selected winning 2-number combination for that draw, participant will not only get the weekly prize of P100,000.00 but also gets a bonus of P100,000 for a total prize money of P200,000.

9. All messages must be sent to 2966. Standard message rate P2.00 for Smart and Globe and P1.00 for Sun.

10. One can send in as many entries as he/she wants, using the same number combination BUT with different Minola promo codes.

11. Sales entries must be sent every week to qualify for each weekly draw. All entries for each completed weekly draw will no longer be valid for the next weekly draw, or for any draw coming weekly draws.

12. All non-winning entries for the weekly draws are automatically qualified for the Grand Draw.

13. There are sixteen (16) weekly draws and one (1) Grand Draw.

14. All winners for the weekly draws and Grand Draw will be notified via registered mail and phone call. Verified winners will be published.

15. Winners should present the following to be able to get their prizes: Valid ID, SM card used, proof of purchase and Letter of Notification.

16. Prizes shall be forfeited in favor of CAP Oil Milling Corporation, if potential winners fail to present the Minola proof of purchase with the winning code and complete identification within 15 days.

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

8 Cabinet men given 2 weeks to submit papers to CA

THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION on Appointments has given five Cabinet members up to April 11 to submit the documents required for the confirmation of their appointments, warning that failure to do so will be "a ground for the rejection of their ad interim appointments."

The commission, chaired by Senate President Franklin Drilon, unanimously passed a **resolution on March 13** containing the stern warning.

A commission official said the resolution was intended for Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Health Secretary Francisco Duque and Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban.

While Panganiban has to submit only two more clearances, the other four Cabinet members failed to submit even a single required document," said the official who asked not to be identified.

The Commission on Appointments resolution said that the Cabinet nominees' non-compliance had prevented the commission's standing committee from meeting with the consideration of their ad interim appointments.

During its plenary session on March 15, the Commission on Appointments unanimously approved and agreed to issue a caution and call the attention of three Cabinet members back to the rules of the commission, particularly Section 2(b)," it added.

Section 2d requires government officials seeking Commission on Appointments confirmation to submit documents like their curriculum vitae, income tax returns, statement of assets for the last four years, and clearances from government agencies like the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The Commission on Appointments official said Ebdane and Duque had requested an extension but they would have to submit the required documents by April 11. Philip C. Tubeza

To save 'castle,' SVD priests to put on waiter's garb

From page A1

simply, how to remove a fire-dining experience for the guests.

"To be a priest is to be a servant," Cordero, 45, told the business last week.

He said it was actually no big deal because he and his colleagues were accustomed to working in the kitchen and serve half-table in the seminary.

"Part of our training then was to prepare meals for our fellow seminarians and clean up afterward," Cordero said. "So to answer, we're not new to the job. But of course, a banquet is banquet with 1,000 guests is different."

Tickets at P1,000

As of last week, only a few of the tickets worth P1,000 each were still available.

Many of the ticket buyers are alumni, former seminarians and their relatives, all concerned that it was high time The Castle was given a facelift.

The P1 million that the dinner organizers are hoping to raise from the event is expected to be a modest sum.

Built in 1933, the Immaculate Building is easily the primary structure at the Christ the King Seminary; it holds the collective memories of seminarians, past and present.

Cordero said the building was garrisoned by the Japanese and turned into some sort of a command center during World War II.

He recalled that back in the 1970s when he was a seminarian, there was persistent talk about the tallest Batanduke structure being buried under the seminary grounds.

Renovation needed

"In fact, there were diggings at that time," he said.

There are 79 seminarians at present, half of whom are staying on the third floor dormitories at The Castle.

Classrooms occupy the second floor, and offices make up the ground floor.

The massive structure clearly shows the need for renovation.

Rust has claimed the window grills, and the carelessly hung curtains are the color of ash.

The building's old-rose paint is pale, it's not peeling, after lately evoking misery and nostalgia. The color barely conceals the cracks, although Cordero said he had been told that The Castle remained "structurally sound."

Still, the seminary's managers are not taking any chances, especially since it will celebrate its 75th anniversary in two years, Cordero said.

March needs to be done to restore the old glory of The Castle.

For Cordero and his peers, it begins by playing good hosts to people who believe in the cause.

THE FIRST CHURCH in the country conceived by German priests and designed like a castle, Christ the King, on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City, badly needs an overhaul and a facelift. (INQUIRER)

Tarlac restaurant sets up 'wall of fury' for hotheads

From page A1

her, she is leaving herself to an **unusual form of anger management.**

Top 3 targets

At the Isdaan restaurant in this town, Moreno and other patrons wash out their stress for P15 a go by hurling plates at the "wall of fury" emblazoned with words such as ex-wife, boss and love.

"The top three targets are boss/manager, wife, women and gambling, and lastly the four **sharks,**" said Viola.

Single occupants, a medical student, made the long journey after a marathon run of exams.

"Something like this would help release all of your stress," she said while flinging plates at the wall.

It is not just customers who benefit. Isdaan's staff enjoy throwing plates at the "Perennially Complaining Customers" sign.

A dozen of "Takatpuan" (a curse in Kapampangan) usually accompanies the sound of breakage.

Beers and bowls are also available, while the sensitivities of the fortune-generous customers of IT1 are for P1,300.

Cheaper than yoga

She only is charging things at the restaurant much cheaper than yoga lessons or professional therapy, it is a lot more fun.

"Isn't it better to break these plates than your personal stuff at home?" Moreno said with a smile.

Manila residents fleeing the congested capital flock to the restaurant on weekends before heading to nearby beaches to ease the tensions with much less emotional baggage.

Arnold Melo, the manager of Isdaan, said it was not unusual for husbands and wives to target each other on the wall before returning to the restaurant to occupy a romantic nook.

At 10:00 impersonator who resurrects the persona, Jeweis Cordilla, said it was not always easy dealing with angry people but they usually left Isdaan in a calmer state of mind.

"In most people who have pent-up emotions, this wall of fury is the best way to let go of all your anger," he said. Reuters

EXTENDED up to APRIL 21, 2006

Civil Service Commission

2006 Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees

The Search is open to career service and non-career service officials and employees of the government.

CATEGORIES OF AWARD

A. **Awards for Outstanding Work Performance**

Presidential or ***Lingkod Bayan Award*** conferred on an individual or group of individuals for exceptional or extraordinary contributions resulting from an idea or performance that had nationwide impact on public interest, security and patrimony. The contribution may be a suggestion, innovation, invention or superior accomplishment.

Civil Service Commission or ***Pagasa Award*** conferred on an individual or group of individuals for outstanding contribution/s resulting from an idea or performance that directly benefit more than one department of the government though not of such extraordinary or exceptional degree to merit the Lingkod Bayan Award.

B. **Award for Exemplary Conduct and Ethical Behavior**

Outstanding Public Officials and Employees Award or the ***Dangal ng Bayan Award*** conferred on an individual for performance of extraordinary act or public service and consistent demonstration of exemplary ethical behavior on the basis of his/her observance of one or more of the eight (8) norms of behavior provided under Republic Act No. 6713: Commitment to Public Interest, Professionalism, Justness and Sincerity, Political Neutrality, Responsiveness to the Public, Nationalism and Patriotism, Commitment to Democracy, and Simple Living.

QUALIFICATIONS OF NOMINEE

Nominated officials and employees, either in individual or group category, must meet the following criteria:

I. Must be in the government service at the time of nomination. Posthumous nominations can be made for officials and employees who died while in the government service and within the year prior to the nomination;
II. Have been rated at least Very Satisfactory or its equivalent for the last two (2) consecutive performance rating periods prior to their nomination; and
III. Have not been found guilty of any administrative or criminal offense involving moral turpitude and have no pending administrative or criminal case at the time of the nomination.

WHO MAY NOMINATE

Any individual or organization with extensive knowledge of the performance and behavior of the official, employee or group/team may nominate for the Honor Awards.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for all the three (3) awards must be submitted, duly accomplished and endorsed by the Agency Head, to any Civil Service Commission Regional Office or Field Office on or before April 21.

For more details, please visit CSC's Regional or Field Offices nearest you. You may also call the Honor Awards Program (HAP) Secretariat at ☎ (02) 932-0861, 931-7905 and 932-0111 or e-mail at pia@csc.gov.ph and rmou@csc.gov.ph.

Correction

IN THE MARCH 30 ISSUE, a table accompanying a story on Page B2-1—"Where parents' money will go this year"—misstated the annual cost of tuition, miscellaneous fees and books for fourth year high school students of Notre Dame School in Cotabato City. The correct figure is PHP70,912—not P52,000 plus.

The Daily Gospel

Thursday, March 30, 2006
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: John 5:31-47

Jesus said to the Jews, "If I bear witness to myself, my testimony would be worthless. It is another who bears witness to me, and I know that his testimony is true when he bears witness to me. You sent emissaries to the truth when you sent messengers to him, but I do not seek human testimony; I recall this only for you, so that you may be saved.

John was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were willing to enjoy his light. But I have greater evidence than that of John—the works which the Father entrusted to me so I may carry out. The very works I do bear witness for the Father has sent me. You for who bears witness to me is the Father who sent me. Then, as long as you do not believe his messengers, his word is not in you.

"You search the Scriptures thinking that in them you will find life; yet Scripture bears witness to me. But you refuse to come to me, that you may live. I do not seeking human praise; but I have known that love of God is not within you. I've Dame come in my Father's name and you do not accept me. If another comes in his own name, you will accept him. As long as you seek praise from one another instead of seeking the glory coming from the only God, how can you believe?

"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; Moses himself is whom you placed your hope, accuses you. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

Commentary:

Music is one to the depressed people, to those bound in total or partial loss of their faithfulness, violence, and worship of other gods. But Moses pleads for them. Imagine God to remember all that he has done for them in the past and not letting all that go to waste because of the wrongful actions. Moses can see beyond the immediate present and feel what Jesus has hoped and wished for people to listen to him, to remember John who was the burning light for a while, and to look at the testimony of his works of healing, hope, forgiveness, and to search the Scriptures to know who he is. Do we have this Word abiding in us? Can we see the work of God? Jesus does not accuse us before God but pleads on our behalf. But who do we believe? And whose words do we ignore?

Quezon Schools Inc., 8 Maryose St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, GP 451, Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, PO Box 1000, Fax: 926-5179, E-mail: qsi@pacific.net.ph, Website: http://www.qsi.edu.ph/Quezon Schools Inc. is a non-sectarian, co-educational school in the Philippines

11 Magdalo soldiers drop lawyer in court-martial

By Dona Pazdelagan

ELEVEN ARMY SOLDIERS IMPLICATED IN the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny yesterday dropped the lawyer defending them in their court-martial, giving rise to speculations that some of the defendants have struck out a deal with the military leadership.

The 11 soldiers were not among the 184 enlisted men who were released last May after a plea bargain.

In a letter dated March 28, the 11 Army soldiers told lawyer Raul Pulido they were "fully exhausted by the inefficiencies in their superiors in order to resolve their case which has been pending for almost three years.

"It is a painful decision for us to release you but we believe that it is the most sensible action now for our best interest," they said in their thumbscrawled letter addressed to their lawyer.

"We have felt insufficiencies in the chain of command [that] all these things will be resolved in the proper forum and under the auspices of our senior officers," they said.

The soldiers cited no explain their decision to Pulido during the resumption of the hearings yesterday, but Pulido said he did not need an explanation.

The hearing, the first in six months, was postponed after prosecutors moved to consolidate the trial of the three groups of accused.

The first group consists of the 29 alleged core leaders, who style themselves as the so-called Magdalo group, who have also been charged with coup d'etat before a Makati court.

The second group consists of 66 officers and 11 soldiers charged with mutiny while the third group consists of eight officers charged with failure to suppress mutiny.

Last October, 13 top officers led by two of the alleged core leaders, Capmins Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, dropped Pulido as counsel after they apologized a second time to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Army Capt. Alvin Flores followed suit last February, and was also word transferred from solitary confinement to the detention facility where the 13 officers were being held.

Pulido would not speculate about a deal for the 11 but it is known that the group 13 which broke away from the core group of accused punchline have not been offered a plea bargain.

Military prosecutors Lt. Col. Pedro Zavala said the decision to consolidate the trial was made in order to avoid any duplication in the presentation of witnesses.

He said the prosecution was looking at ways to expedite the case as the court itself has noted the "substantial delay."

The last hearing was held on Sept. 16 and the trial on its last not progressed beyond the arraignment stage.

"That's part of due process... There's nothing to be apologetic about," Zavala said.

Pulido said his clients were not fully against the plan to consolidate the trial. He said the defense and the prosecution would thresh out the issue before the next hearing is set.

Security was very tight yesterday with at least 200 Military Police (MP) troops deployed to escort the 11 soldiers who attended the hearing.

For the first time, cameras and news reporters were banned from the courtroom. The number of media people allowed to see limited to 20.

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No-frills homecoming for Cardinal Rosales

By Christian V. Esguerra

EXPECT NO FRILLS WHEN THE country's newest cardinal comes home tonight.

Dear on his character, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales of retiring Socio, the Vatican will be marked by a simple Mass at the Manila Cathedral at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Rosales, 72, officially became the ninth Filipino to receive the red hat after being inducted to the College of Cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI last March 24.

The ceremonies organizing the welcome rites prepared no elaborate festivities, according to Peachy Tumaran, communications director of the archdiocese of Manila.

"It will be simple as the home," she told the Inquirer. "That's how he would like it to be."

But even Rosales could not help it if scores of well-wishers turn up for the Mass, which will be concelebrated by bishops and priests from the archdiocese and its suffragan dioceses, as well as from Lipa and Malolos where he had also served as prelate.

The Mass will be "open to all" but those wanting to come should anticipate a busy crowd, Tumaran said.

She said up to 2,000 people were expected, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon and other government officials, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Two busloads of Rosales' relatives from his home province of Batangas were also expected.

After tomorrow's Mass, there will be two receptions at the nearby Villa Immaculada and Cleinhell.

Separate festivities were scheduled in Lipa and Malolos next month.

But while the people really excited about the arrival of a new cardinal"

Aside from Manila, Tumaran said the occasion was particularly special among parishioners in Lipa and Malolos-by which Rosales had spent years as a champion of the poor, the environment, and other important issues confronting the diocese.

For Filipinos, having a new cardinal brings prestige since candidate, who are also known as "princes of the Church," serve as advisers to the Pope and choose his successor.

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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 02

Series of 2006

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE HIRING OF FILIPINO HOUSEHOLD WORKERS FOR CYPRUS

Pursuant to existing regulations which provide for the recruitment and documentation of Filipino household workers through an accredited/registration system and the same hiring of Filipino household workers only in countries where foreign governments approves do not operate, the name hiring of Filipino household workers bound for Cyprus shall be allowed only for the following employers duly endorsed by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) which has jurisdiction over the worksite:

1. Immediate members of the family or head of state/government;
2. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other senior government officials of the host country;
3. Senior officials of the diplomatic corps and duly recognized international organizations.

In case of the certificate of competency (COC) of the worker issued by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall be required by POEA as a requirement for the documentation of household workers, whether name-hire or agency-hire.

All previous issuances inconsistent with this circular are hereby deemed repealed and superseded.

For strict compliance effective 15 days from publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

INQUIRER

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market

Erap: Chavit got P1.4B

From page A1

about P4 billion in illegal gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and commissions unrelated to casino bank accounts under or alias.

Estrada also faces a perjury charge for allegedly understating his assets in 1999.

The 68-year-old Estrada was ousted in a People Power revolution in 2001 after his supporters in the Senate impeachment court refused to accept what had been alleged as evidence against him.

The plunder charges against Estrada carry the maximum penalty of death by lethal injection, but it was more likely that he would be pardoned. Vice-dent Mamagal devoted's administration has initiated reconciliation talks with Estrada, fearing his legion of impoverished supporters.

Gag order

Both media people packing the hearing, the Sandiganbayan banned both sides from talking to reporters about their choices of sources, approximate that there would whip up tensions among Estrada's supporters.

Associate Justice Teresita de Castro said the three-member court would consider next week, when Estrada will testify again, possibly extending the ban to include media opinion pieces on the trial and commentary from case witnesses.

In his previous testimony on March 23, Estrada claimed he was framed with "trumped-up charges" that led to his downfall during massive street protests.

Answering questions from his lawyers, Estrada accused Singson, his former drinking buddy and main accuser, of stealing nine funds before he became treasurer in 1999 and passing the blame on to him.

No cover-up

"I never asked anyone to cover up his (Singson's) unliquidated cash advances," Estrada told the court. "He was trying to pass his liabilities to me when the Commission on Audit began running after him."

Estrada's lawyers produced several documents to show that Singson was facing 11 graft cases for "ghost" projects and unliquidated cash advances.

"From the beginning, he was already accustomed to fictitious cases," Estrada said.

Singson denied the allegations, telling reporters "he (Estrada) is just reading his script."

"They are repeating it as part of their defense to destroy my credibility," he said.

EVELYN Claor, wife of the provincial COA auditor who was killed in an ambush while probing Singson's alleged misappropriation of cash advances, dries up at the antigraft court rapt study to testimonial support to Estrada.

Singson noted that three were the same accusations leveled against him during the October 2000 impeachment of Estrada. He said there were no cases pending against him.

Nothing to do with bank notes

Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio asked the court to strike out Estrada's allegations as hearsay, but the judges decided to allow them as part of Estrada's "narration."

Shown a check and bank documents allegedly carrying the transfer of the six kickbacks, Estrada last week denied any knowledge of the papers, telling the court it was the first time he had seen them.

Yesterday, he repeated his position. "I do not recognize these documents and I have nothing to do with these documents."

Also present in the packed courtroom were his two sons—including codefendant Jinggoy Estrada—wife and daughter Jackie.

Outside the Sandiganbayan, about 200 pro-Estrada supporters gathered to show support for the ousted leader, still considered a hero by many of the country's poor.

Prosecutor confident

Villa-Ignacio expressed confidence Estrada would be convicted.

"There is nothing that he can do that can overcome the testimonial and documentary evidence that we have presented," he said.

The prosecution rested its case in 2005 after presenting 76 witnesses and more than 1,500 pieces of evidence.

Another 3 months

Estrada, who has denied any wrongdoing but is detained in his Tanay rest house, is likely to appear before the Sandiganbayan for the next two months because hearings are conducted only once a week.

It will take three more months before the two sides wrap up arguments. With reports from AP and Reuters

"NOT GUILTY," Estrada supporters outside the court's make their sentiments known. ALEX LOPEZ

US court may grant bail to Lacson's former aide

From page A1

in jail," Diaz told reporters.

Diaz, however, said Aquino's immigration problems could dissuade the judge from granting him bail.

"The past status hearings on Aquino were all postponement (also) on the defense request as he has talked with the prosecution's documents so there would be no surprise during the actual trial," Diaz said.

"From now until October, the prosecution would be gathering additional evidence," Jones said.

The SEI lawyer said court-appointed lawyer Mark Berman and Rita Metzger, who handled Aquino's immigration case, represented the former police official. Aquino is detained at the Passaic County Jail in New Jersey.

Espionage charges

Espionage charges were filed against Aquino, 38, and FBI analyst Leandro Aragoncillo, 46, late last year for passing classified information to reporter and former Filipina-of-Fields.

United President Joseph Estrada, Senator Panfilo Lacson and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Hutchison Bay Ayala Cebu have confirmed receiving e-mails from either Aquino or Aragoncillo but they said the papers were of dubious intelligence value.

SEI officials said Aquino was arrested in his house in Queens, New York, in early September last year while Aragoncillo was nabbed in his Woodbury, New Jersey home.

Aquino and Aragoncillo were ordered held without bail in a New York federal prison following an initial appearance before US Magistrate Judge Judy Orenstein.

If found guilty of the charges, the accused could face 15 years in prison and $500,000 or more than P25 million in fines.

Aragoncillo was also charged with conspiracy to commit bribery, honest services fraud and illegal gratuities.

AQUINO: Mysterious client

Aragoncillo was arrested in August last year in Fort Lee, New Jersey, after he allegedly received $30,000 in cash from undercover FBI agents posing as members of a terrorist group.

FBI investigation

Diaz said the FBI began investigating and monitoring Aragoncillo after the analyst intended for Aquino following the former police official's arrest in March 2005 for attempting to flee United States.

Aquino had posted a P10,000 bail for his violation of US immigration laws.

Aquino and former PNP-Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao have been implicated in the November 2000 abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Supt. Glenn Dumlao has tagged Aquino and Mancao in the double murder, along with several other members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), which Lacson headed during the Estrada presidency.

17 Chinese poachers win pardon, will be deported

By Lala B. Solmerin

[illegible] by President [illegible] yaga-Lawyers ready this month, 17 fishermen convicted of poaching in Philippine waters were yesterday ordered expelled from the Philippines by the Bureau of Immigration.

The bureau's Board of Commissioners issued the deportation order for the 17 fishermen yesterday after Secretary Ermita informed the bureau about their conditional pardon by Ms Arroyo dated March 10, 2006.

The pardon cuts 10 months off the fishermen's sentences in May 2005 for violating the Philippines' fisheries code. They were sentenced to six years in jail by the Puerto Princesa Regional Trial Court.

The Chinese, who were arrested in January 2004 off Bolinao, Pangasinan province, were found guilty of fishing in Philippine waters without a permit. Philippine Coast Guard operatives also seized from them 12 gillnets and 3 motor launches, which were ordered forfeited in favor of the government.

Ermita, through a memorandum, directed the bureau to facilitate the Chinese nationals' voluntary departure, which would be subject to conditions the President imposed in removing pardoning them.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Absolute power

PRESS SECRETARY IGNACIO BUNYE ASSURES everyone that President Macapagal-Arroyo must her appointing power very wisely and well. "The President's power to hire and fire (hectic)rates in the executive branch has been exercised judiciously to the public interest," the presidential spokesman declared last Monday where the honeymoon began its series on political appointees populating the civil service.

EDITORIAL Maybe, Bunye should have read the article before he opened his mouth. Since he didn't say it tongue-in-cheek, that statement easily made him sound like a brazen liar.

Consider just two appointees mentioned in the article written by Jerry Esplanada. The first is Esperanza Abriol, administrator of the presidential mansion in Baguio City. A dentist by profession, she is apparently well-regarded by her colleagues, having once been elected as vice president of the Philippine Dental Association. She describes herself as "very capable," "very well-organized" and willing to serve the President until she is "maybe" 77 years old. But she is 73, well past the retirement age of 65 for all civil servants (with the exception of justices and judges). And when she attended one official function, witnesses said she looked "frail and seemed to have difficulty walking around." When asked to read something, she could not do it because she had forgotten to bring not her eyeglasses but her reading glass. All of which should have made everyone—Ms Arroyo and Bunye, included—wonder how she could run a 13-hectare estate used as the President's summer retreat.

Then there is Dennis Canaman, who seemed to have impressed top administration officials by packaging a scholarship program that Ms Arroyo touted during the presidential campaign. That faint brush with scholarship earned Canaman an appointment as executive director of the Commission on Higher Education. But there was one big hitch: the CHED union, composed mostly of college graduates, threatened to go on strike. And for a very good reason: Canaman did not finish college. It must have slipped the President's mind that appointing an undergraduate to head a commission that regulates higher education was not only the height of irony but also a debasement of higher learning and an insult to everyone who had earned a college degree.

But this was not the only irony in the Canaman appointment. At about the same time, Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David recalls, Palace officials were trying to fire cameramen working with Radio-TV Malacañang because they did not have college degrees. It seems that the administration thinks it takes much less training and education to run a whole education agency than to point a camera at the President and her guests. So much for the President's judicious exercise of the power to hire.

As to the judicious use of the power to fire, what about the sudden relief of Miguel Luz as undersecretary of education? Luz had played a key role in implementing reforms in the Department of Education, particularly its grab-ridden book procurement program. But when he balked at accepting a post-dated check, which looked suspiciously like a pay-off for a congressman's support for the President who was then facing an impeachment complaint, he was told by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to pack up and leave. When told that Luz could not be dismissed without cause especially because he was a career service executive, Ermita ordered him to move in the Department of Labor and Employment. For following the law, Luz paid a heavy price. And Bunye calls this a judicious exercise of power?

These are not isolated cases. The dismissal or grounding of career civil service officials and the hiring of political supporters, who don't have the necessary qualifications, are happening all over the government bureaucracy. Add to this the creeping militarization of the civil service, which has seen Ms Arroyo appoint more retired military and police officers than any of her predecessors.

But if all this indiscriminate hiring and firing have demoralized the career officers (who have studied their future in the public service) and made a shambles of the professional civil service, Malacañang apparently could not care less. Bunye wouldn't even bother to justify the President's appointments, declaring that it is the President's prerogative to make them. "When the President makes a choice, nobody should question it," Ermita said.

Sorry, but until now few Filipinos know that they are ruled by a capricious sovereign and an absolute dictator.

Diaspora philanthropy

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THEY CALL IT 'DIASPORA PHILANTHROPY'—efforts by ethnic homelands overseas migrants to support development initiatives in the poverty-stripped homeland they left. And it is massive—and it has grown over the decade in so many ways.

Pooled by Filipinos abroad, the gifts, donations and services are different from "remittances" (funds sent back by poor families of overseas workers and sent, on a more or less regular basis, to families left behind). They are "millions of cash gifts, goods and services." Some seek to jump-start projects in economically stagnant places the migrants fled from. Others conclude, before sinking into cozy retirement, to build a classic schools, hospitals, churches, NGOs, town plazas and emergency relief. Ed Sa Tandem Leyte establishe victims is only the latest.

There are many ways to gauge this development. One is from the increasingly diverse way the Bangko Sentral tracks the inflow of funds under World Bank Balance of Payments Manual rules. Another is from the equally telling "worker's eye" view of individual donors.

Overseas Filipinos sent $7.639 billion (6 cents to their families in 2005. Bangko Sentral figures show. "Diaspora philanthropy" that year rounded $2.10 million here. This figure is the highest in five years," journalists Opinion of the OFW Journalism Consortium writes. In 1999, that was only $65 million, in exchange rates prevailing then, that was P1.9 billion. Adjusted for inflation and economic growth.

The data lacks detail. "There's a large untapped resource of philanthropic funds from the diaspora," especially for non-profit programs, says Teo Soriano Rivera of Manila Foundation Inc. (AFI). "Civil society groups can now have an idea of the playing field."

Diaspora resources "could be a source of funds which could help in the development of the countryside," notes Asian Development Bank consultant Edelmiro Bagsican. These philanthropic transfers are nearly "unorganized."

Many civil society groups have yet to look at overseas Filipinos as a resource," he writes. Studies are needed to pinpoint "what prevents overseas Filipinos from giving more."

Bureaucratic sludge, lack of accountability, petty politics and corruption, sneezes a UP graduate who is now a New York-based executive. Dramas are disguised given the "existence of small-town politicians."]

"Some friends and I started a book funding program, in the town where I spent the first 16 years of life. It took us 15 minutes—away from 30 City. Third grade students there can't read. And when they finally do, they don't grasp what they're reading—hampered, he dearth of reading materials.

"We've learned from failures of just stocking libraries. The only successful experience with a few book lending programs that operate like a library. Here students come via the program's than to school libraries. Schools aren't closed after office hours and weekends.

"But we don't work through the local government. Involvement with politicians is a kiss of death, we decided early on. As a result, we've informed the LGU of our initiatives. No doubt it we'll get a reply, considering units along evaluating workers (they can't shun all anything).

"We ship out tons of books through (the) local government and civic groups. But when they visited, they couldn't trace their donations. Collector colleagues complain their container shipments of books are gathering dust, months after arrival. Clearance is usually passed. And too many people linger on how to distribute them.

"We've been deluged with help from this end. Penny Americans are more enthusiastic about donating than Filipinos. To pay for shipment, we let family relatives, and every friend we've made in our life. It's easier to raise money than over transactions, specially when volunteers are involved.

"History teaches us we have a culture of evil connection. But here-day Filipinos have a strange sequence of volunteering. They shuffle on the sidelines, look from the corner of their eyes. And when they see something is happening, come, prepared to participate—but only after the heavy lifting is done.

"What puzzles me is why many retired teachers—some of them still young—are not involved in activities that help educate the children. The list of things that they can do is endless.

"In Catanauan, Tayabas, there's a reading remedial program supported by Save the Children Federation. Conducted by school teachers and volunteers, it's getting good results. Now, why can't my town do copy that?

"Secondly, we've been in New York of bizgents dynamic's Tabacaleros Revolucion institutions. Jointly, retired teachers' association can support its "Mentoring the Mentors" and other similar programs. A lot of these initiatives do not need a lot of financing. Time and commitment are just as valuable.

"Education reformation is a hard sell. Only a prospect have 'donated by' signs, with names of the 'philanthropists' splashed all over. But how does one put her making's benefits in the life of a young child?

"Oh, I'm not complaining what I have gotten myself into. I know these things would make a big difference. If at all. But if that's the best I can hope for, that's good enough for me."

* * *

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Graduating

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiroz

I HAVEN'T FELT SAD ABOUT GRADUATIONS in a long time. But this year I do. It's not because my son graduated from high school the other Sunday—and graduations are as much an excuse to sing a morbid "Sunrise, Sunset" as they are to bring out the bubbly, while wondering how in the name of sense your son managed the feat without so much as ever seeing him study. And it's not because, as the editorials of newspapers almost ritualistically lament, there are few jobs awaiting out there for the hordes that has just finished college. It's simply that I can't feel the life of me how the graduates can ever to respond brighter today.

Graduation is normally a time for exclusive big cost, exuding for things that exceed your grasp, or what's known for. It's a time for dire valedictorians and graduation speakers to exhort the young, for whom the world stretches into the horizon with its endless possibilities, to be the best that they can be. It's a time when parents remember the dreams and hopes they've had, gently tinged with regret for the things that did not come true, partly brimming with thanksgiving for the blessings that unexpectedly did.

This year, however, we find a world that seems resolutely opposed to all this. If the best teacher is example, then the graduates of today have very little to learn from their parents.

This is a country where people are content to reach for things that lie well within their grasp, and still fail to reach them. This is a country where people are happier content to choose mediocrity to mastering it's all an era do to keep out bend about to make. Indeed, this is a country where being honest and noble and heroic no longer means anything, while making do with the worst is now everything.

Nothing has brought me to see the stark contrast between what graduations mean and what they've come to than the news about more than the Philippine Military Academy graduation last week. GMA was the guest to that graduation, which made the occasion exceptionally dramatic. Clearly, the kids there had more to teach her than she the kids.

The valedictorian of the biggest class in that institution (but, hey! Toledo, showed us, the challenged has followed to the letter of quiz heroism, and he knew showed he spoke. He himself had done so. He came from impoverished origins, his father dying in 1992 in tragic circumstances and his mother supporting them by selling rice until she was 70. Despite these, his citizen "top personal heroes"—spent for his studies by doing odd jobs abroad, and he made sure not a single centavo of what he got was wasted. He studied hard, and was on the top of his class. When he is now is as much his story's handiwork as his own.

It was "a touching personal speech," the honored, but not very honorable, guest would say later. But, of course, it was. And if indeed it had touched her, she would even now be marching out of the Palace by the Pasig and of shame.

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Toledo had spoken of the biggest challenges in high adversity and by dint of hard work had managed to make the top honors of his heroic school. GMA had bought only boredom, which is the lot of valiancies born with a silver spoon, or into the household of a former President, and by dint of playing safe had managed to attain the highest positions of the land. Toledo had begun low and ended very high up in life, the least of his fellows, a living example for his community to follow. GMA had begun high and ended up very low down in life, the most despised person in her community, a living example of what public elementary school teachers want their pupils never to become.

Toledo had spoken of the joys and rewards that come from diligence and self-sacrifice. Though they themselves were as poor as church mice and had to scrounge around for a living, Toledo's sisters had given freely of what they had to him, for no other reason than that it was the right thing to do. GMA has shown only the pain and presidential silliness born of her crass ignorance, specially when volunteers are involved.

"History teaches us we have a culture of evil connection. But here-day Filipinos have a strange sequence of volunteering. They shuffle on the sidelines, look from the corner of their eyes. And when they see something is happening, come, prepared to participate—but only after the heavy lifting is done.

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* * *

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Can Comelec ignore millions of signatures?

I ASKED WITH ED MALAY, DIRECTOR OF THE Comelec Law Department and Advocacy, when he signed the petition for initiative to amend the Constitution. Malay answered that against 9 to 7 million signatures of registered voters in the "people's initiative," Resolution against the poll body as saying it would have "no choice" but to dismiss the petition since the constitution says that "the power to propose amendments directly exercised by the people" can only be implemented "in accordance with" the rules of court, it's only government prosecutors who are authorized to do so.

Political Tidbits

Rolando Olivares-Constantino

Doubtless, the people's initiative will be the subject of a lot of debates in the immediate days to come. But from the procedural standpoint, petitioners have already complied with the Rules of Representation, led by Speaker Jose de Venecia, say that the fact that the Constitution requires the participation of a massive bloc—at least 12 percent of the total registered voters' votes and at least 3 percent in each legislative district—is proof enough that constitutional revision (e.g., change in the form of government) could not just amendment, it is allowed in a people's initiative. On the other hand, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban has already head-hill regulates the vote of both chambers of Congress, doesn't help dissuade us such a significant change requires a similar action? No dice to people's initiative for the moment, they seem.

The Court of Appeals ordered the Department of Justice to stop its preliminary investigation of Atty. Romulo Macalintal's petition for the disqualification filing by the DOJ had established "incontrovertible facts" against the accused. ABS-CBN's lawyer complained that the DOJ prosecutors were alarmed by certain statements in the judge's ruling obvious "bias." It's common sense but the lawyer would complain of the DOJ's unclear haste in conducting the preliminary investigations, when the inquiry is already nearly two months old. The position is, as Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez hopefully stated, DOJ prosecutors are required to conduct investigating the case, who can't complain of "undue haste" since, as mentioned above, it's only government prosecutors who are authorized to do so.

There is a lot of issue in the network's complaints of "bias" all through these stories. Recently, a member of TV viewers have noticed more than this network, disgusted by its relentless bias against the administration (and by it all was one-sided treatment of news. Despite have noted how many of its anchorpersons/its would viewably put words into the mouths of interviewees in the case of the "bias" by the host authority when it comes to this subject.

What's the point? Simply that the Court of Appeals is going to apply its considerable clout to make that the investigation could such time that it can finish regarding out-of-court settlements with the families of the 73 dead and the 300 or so injured in the "bloody" incident. But even after a settlement will have been established with the victims or their families, there's still the criminal liability of those who were clearly negligent.

Inquirer reader Hernan Sibal, writing in this paper's letter section, informed us each of the citizens, Lothar Land, is entitled to question those who the citizen's constitutional right over their affairs. Sibal claimed, that each citizen may be the prerogative that after all, other politicians appointed to have divested, not, I said that—only one). Land, while the Court Justice for the claimed that few. Land's Madrigal had claimed to get her self-elected. Sibal insisted proved that sometimes, saying that I was suggesting that we "just shrug off the problem and let it persist by ignorance."

The fact is, it long time ago, before having candidate Aquino Personnel filed charges against some Comelec personnel he presented to have conducted recounting bias. I claimed him on and informed the case was dismissed for lack of evidence to conclude to this end. But it's quite another thing when other news months of congressional inquiry into the fraud report, and a statement unprecedented, persistent, we believe or lay, as not else claiming some against SDOs to the detriment of the country's progress and stability. I deplore the new found "anti-bias" especially as it is accompanied, unrelated by incidents of other bias, unconstitutionary and because it is obviously meant only to cast my process. DIXI. Let's clean the whole system and punish all cheaters.

Last week, a day before the first anniversary of former President Joseph Estrada before the Sandiganbayan, Sen. Pimentel Lacson made the astounding revelation that when he was chief of the Philippine National Police, Estrada ex-aged lawyer money and channeled it to the then Sen. Vicente Francisco Lacson said he told Estrada that even if his investment were good, he could not accept the money. Lacson also made the claim that he himself refused to accept the P1 million secretly put in the office to the PNP chief by jueteng lords.

More than that, however, Lacson became clear. Many people are wondering if he's wondering by what he said. Estrada's spokesperson, Dolores Balmaceda, has said Lacson's statement might be an "attempt to influence" the case since the prosecution has rested its case. But the people would like the former president to comment on Lacson's statements. And they want Lacson to say it's something par to what he said.

Mayday! Mayday! for the aviation industry

Human Face

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE LOCAL AVIATION INDUSTRY COULD crash if the exodus of aviation experts does not slow down. The industry is composed of pilots, mechanics, the airlines and the service providers.

"Peaking at the highest level" was how a 30-something mechanic called the aggressive recruitment of pilots by foreign airlines. Some of them have been reportedly coming to make cheap pickings from the Philippines' pool of highly trained experts. They could offer higher packages because they do not spend money and time to train the crew.

Many pilots have left the pilots' ranks. It was what the failure to industry was supposedly to stop but for during to recent international tour in the Philippines. That's not many considering that the Philippine Airlines (PAL) only commercial pilots to go around.

Singapore reportedly has an answer under its ID plan, pending at the Philippine Congress and Employment from home.

From 2004 to 2005, more than 200 aircraft mechanics and aviation support staff have left to be recruited, according to Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Rafaelita Aldaba. Philippine Airlines (PAL) alone lost 70 of its pilots and 60 to 70 different airlines in the Middle East and Asia.

"We could lose more and we are feeling the pinch," said PAL vice president for human resources Lucio Lamberto. "Audio will be sending 30 pilots to Saudi Arabia in the next few months. The projected number is about 20,000 pilots for Dubai in the next 20 years.

The good news is that Filipino airplane pilots, mechanics, engineers, technicians, flight crews, etc. are so good that they are in such great demand abroad. The bad news is that they are being snapped up by foreign recruiters faster than the local aviation industry can train new ones and replace those who leave.

The foreign jet industries' gain is certainly the Philippines' loss. The dollar remittances that are supposed to result from the phenomenon would be more than offset by the negative damage to the Philippine industry that serves both local and foreign airline needs.

Key players in the aviation industry have now

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo is a columnist for the Inquirer. Her e-mail address is mceres@inquirer.com.ph.

joined 900 non-job-type recruits.

Among the key players that have made the Philippines the regional hub for maintenance and repair are Lufthansa Technik Phils., Aviation Philand Mission. In-house 11,000 are employed in these sectors.

Which global passenger traffic improved in increase in September and 2005, the projected number of new aircraft would be 16,000 worldwide.

Singapore is in need of 747 airline mechanics and 60 engine mechanics, both in the next 15. There are some job orders with the POEA. Any being hired are pilots, planner, technical and support representatives. Cebu cargo hiring is also in demand. In Middle East, Boeing is hiring 1,000 jets/year and the airport: 12,000 by 2013.

Here at home, the air transport industry will be requiring more planes for the local carriers in the very few years.

Which all there is a glut of pilots in the United States, Lamberto said the airlines of the Middle East are not likely to look to that direction. Filipinos are a top choice. When proficiency in English becomes a criterion for employment in the Middle East, there will be an increased demand for Filipinos.

So what does the industry propose? That the government "consider a ban on the entry into deployment of the said occupations and skills in general or of the said occupations in the form of short-term periods, whichever is shorter."

The ban will put the domestic aviation industry "a breathing space that should allow system interventions to be put in place." Government is pursuing programs to provide a buffer while the time to lift the deployment bans comes.

At present, the industry players said, "the cradle for aspirants wherein others are taken by the industry as soon as they graduate must close and is a long-lead time involved."

Last January, Sec. Rosalio Ranogon filed a resolution asking both the executive and legislative departments to support the proposed temporary ban.

Mayday! Mayday!

(mceres@inquirer.com.ph)

Going for broke

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III

The solution general interviewed on TV the other day was spectacular very confident about the prospects of a favorable decision by the Supreme Court. See no problem, of course, as no major collusion was taking place.

The House keeps changing the particulars of the impeachment in a manner which seems more and more to be designed to make it difficult for anyone to figure out what, exactly, the charges will be. Presented with a "yes" or "no" to a sweeping array of amendments, the people will find it easier to simply "vote no" and get on with their lives. Besides, the rules and rules and those parties already declared out during the campaign committees are a sign of some parties to the case.

We will spend the next decade or so organizing in a scattered and confusing pseudo-parliamentary system, until the President manages his impeachment from presidents to prime ministers for life or until the Philippines is ripped apart by a civil war conflict and neither both Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos; that's the looming fate. Everyone else, in the face of his or her own ambitions, is a reluctant bystander, powerless, and eventually find a way to make peace with the co-existential dispensation. Those who don't can be ignored or locked up. Life, now relatively impotent is, at least, not yet worse and it is always worse, there will still be incipient options available.

That's the plan, as far as I can see it. There is a certain beauty to it. We often hear that the Filipino even in the leadership, throws out before, like agnes with the observation. We only look for the underdog when there's a chance he can manage to win. Otherwise, we're not interested. We observe spectator sports for the drama, the thrilling duration, the emotionally ill-fated outcome. In the sporting gym, every day has its drama—even the ones we shouldn't see, particularly in the shopping, adult, square at least a membership in the park and the canteen of the kennel.

It is possible for the persons "initiative" to half anything is possible, but right now, I can't see how. Besides, people have been so thoroughly screwed over by politicians to assume that it will succeed, all the way down to plebiscite day. What can be done to escape the fall of Rizalito. And I make nothing—not even MANNY VILLAR—is impossible. Not even that Erap will succeed in fighting the good fight. I suppose that you think in terms of what you would like some able enough to have the people's voice to spread those on non-cable Manila areas.

Those factors are just governance—the ones. They are far from becoming the stuff from which people are inspired to make the necessary sacrifices, boardrooms, no takeovers of the anti-Republicans, no widespread, organized throwing out of incumbents or taken-over of their things—in a nutshell, inspire the middle-class to start living for its principles and those principles to start living for the people—and everything else will follow. Nothing to start worrying about in corporate control—is taking place. But yet. But soon. Mas even as the three worst factors that could take place.

I can only hope that I'm wrong. I am a Filipino but not true. It's 2007 I intend referring to the political machinery of our day. No. it's 2012, six million signed forth. Some time that. Some should be ignoring with no one otherwise. Plus. It's like the Philippines' political system is a system of rules of relative quiet and, perhaps, even prosperity that will deliver—literally. Into me. Perhaps, it's the way things should be. Three things coincidence.

First bribe

ITS OFFICIAL. I JUST PAID MY FIRST BRIBE.

Carrying the false impression that I was the driver in my house in Muntinlupa City, I had received right to 500 (thousand) when a man in uniform suddenly came running toward me. Shortly, the encounter that was meant to be centered on the day my dad finally allowed me to use the car (naked, and child) went up my nose.

The man was a traffic enforcer of the MMDA and he stood me for a traffic violation.

Well I had not heard of before. "more, my," Without much talk, the questioning began. He did all the talking. I was still numb, but what I was hearing was all bubble. My only concern was how to get out of the fix and avoiding a

Young Blood

Luis R. Ramamoorthy III

We want to know what the young guys are thinking about, what are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the newspaper-reading and below.—Ed.

record. I called my father, my parents. Like a hapless fool, I reached for my wallet and, on cue, slipped a week's worth of allowance into the black leather case.

Five years after that first episode, I recall doing the same thing in front was more times. Each time, I compromised my principles a little more than the "real" violations I myself have been acquired for years: from Hollywood movies' where rally crooks bought themselves out of trouble on those instances to real life. I wonder that I didn't progress to committing felony in my senior life.

To his (the only) premise when my values statements reaches in elementary school, described corrupt people as hideous beasts. And I couldn't believe when I realized that I had become one.

The reality was for right home to one where I has had a talk with a friend. She was caught going the wrong way on a one-way street. To cut a long story short, she ended herself from the fine same way I did, another three previous occasions. I felt like I was looking at myself in the mirror.

She gave me the same excuse that sounds so reasonable. "It's a busy process. There are so many rules and regulations we do that we do not know the latest." Everything being kept. Besides, a couple of hundred bucks won't hurt a bit, would it? In fact, everybody does home forget. The traffic officer earns a little more than minimum for meager salary. And because, hmmm, I wasn't do it ever again."

I had heard it before, but it felt was a lie that he/she let us in on. And it was the first time I was well respected as my circle of friends. She was upright. She was a good person!

That is for me. How many "good" people can there actually be enough to be competent to engage in such a dishonest practice?

Feeling the pangs of guilt, I resolved to do the right thing the next time something similar happened. I told myself that the next time I got caught violating traffic rules, I would immediately my license and refrain engage the apprehending traffic officer in polite discourse.

"What's the problem, officer? I got more than what I bargained for. The officer was not my license, without hesitating or some consideration, although he gave me a brief lecture on traffic rules and safety.

Ever since this, feel, I have done was not reverted well by my friends. I have been stopped by traffic officers for a traffic violation, but at night was every rule-abiding to do. "But was stupid," they said. "You never know! who carry drugs public officials are capable of these days."

To be fair, I do see their point. I mean I should give serious thought to their concern, seeing how many times I have encountered drug-related incidents.

But I also realize that this growing tolerance is being promoted by "good" people who don't think twice before giving small bribes. In the larger scheme of things, this child perpetuates to go for the "quick fix" to many of our business ever growing to the point where the absence of peace and no safety and/or injustice high places.

In his personal level on matters building, titled "32 Little Things From Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country," former Ambassador Jaime Ongpin urges respect for the traffic officers, rubber and other public servants.

I have had first-hand experience since I resolved to do things the right way. And I trust me I get my license back every time, without paying a dime. Imagine, the industry is empowered from one citizen at the moment.

From someone to ordinary as I am can actually do something about the problem of bribery, then I believe that, over time, corruption can be reduced, and, in Lucio said, this can begin in empowering traffic officers.

If learning them with respect doesn't get me back my license, so be it. I can have at go through the most cumbersome legal process of getting it back. It's not easy. But it's plainly morally clear.

Luis R. Ramamoorthy III, 20, is a project analyst at Lufthansa Technik Philippines.

Notice to Youngblood contributors:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph, together with your address, age and the school you're in and your e-mail address, if applicable. Please make sure to include your contact number, as we may want to follow up on the articles you send with. Unpublished or Youngblood should not have been previously published.

They Said

Meat for mincing

"If I were not in the Senate, I would love to handle this case and do the interrogation of the cast of anyone who's appeared before."
—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile on the grave concern over the appearance of Comelec officials before the Senate committee on electoral reforms

No cheating

"We are serious about this, but we are not willing to sacrifice democracy for the sake of the government. Kung ilan nga kami, e, di nilan ako kasi, ay nagiging ako na kapag sa 12:01 A.M. ibig kong [Read it as] sino, eh di, ikaw ang sasabihin ko."
—Commission on Elections chairman Benjamin Abalos on the possibility of his losing a contest to Pampanga Rep. Emilio Ong in the gubernatorial race in Pampanga

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

No shortcuts to 'revolutions'

I'M A MEMBER OF THE SILENT majority, and, although I don't go marching on the streets with other concerned citizens: (1) I am angry at how President Macapagal-Arroyo disrespected, corrupted, and destroyed our country's military and political institutions; and at how she underestimated our people's intelligence; (2) I am outraged at how she and her lapdogs aided the dictators in the investigation of the Ilo Ilo slave case, cursing, etc.; (3) I am equally disgusted with our opposition politicians, who are mostly traps with pedestals with trash stacked, offering themselves as substitutes.

But no, therefore, in solitude where no one is to choose between evil and the lesser evil?

I suggest that the silent majority start getting involved in: (1) discussing, intelligently and nonviolently, through the free press, issues against GMA and her gang; (2) exposing the details of her wrongdoings to government (e.g., through investigative journalism); this way the people will be able to distinguish between fact and propaganda; (3) rejecting Charter change while she remains in Malacañang; (4) calling a midterm Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) to choose between a unicameral or bicameral form of government, and to provide GMA in that same vote; (5) allow her impeachment. Many can be against her and her husband; (6) helping the Ver Generals in admin affairs from 2007 to 2010; and (7) charging the four of government in parliamentary fashion, and monitoring who has to facilitate throughout the subpoena down of our primary democratic institutions.

My point is: There is no short cut to a successful social, political and economic revolution. Even non-violently, it takes time and time to mature.

—RAMON BUEBA,
valleverde@yahoo.com

Cheating to win elections—a matter of practicality

THIS REFERS TO KAREN JAVIER'S column entitled "The government of spectators." (PDI, 3/5/09) In this column, he dismissed up the idea that the concerned and enlightened middle class is not acting the way it did to oust Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada because it is only the poor that is affected by the one who will replace Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be better.

Let me offer another probable reason: Despite our being a predominantly Christian nation, we are corrupted by the alleged cheating of GMA because we feel Philippine elections have always been rotten.

The mass can't choose their candidates wisely as their welfare is not their struggle to survive as they consumerist by the millions the educated middle and upper classes that are better informed because they can afford to buy newspapers or listen to current events programs, till that the mass understand is that our gov't there thinks, who can protect them from eviction, who installs pro-poor slogans, who broke-housing, who to remember during election time.

And, maybe, are cable GMA into because she is proving to be a good face-breaking President, and if she cheated in the elections, it was because she wanted to win so she could continue the good job she is doing so well.

Yes, there may be millions more who are better than GMA in terms, love of country, experience and strength, but given the reality of Philippine elections, do they stand a chance of winning against the war chests of machine against Pacquiao?

Something must be done about our election system. In the meantime, practicality must play sway to idealism. Me no so fond of politics, and I rather only be found on computer, in the pursuit of our economic goals than rally on the streets.

—JOSUE DE JESUS,
rosedj@yahoo.com

GMA's claim makes a strong argument for atheism

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE news item "GMA: God's plan for Sun." (PDI, 3/16/09) Ex-Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's claim that she is God's plan for the country. The statement is an affront to God.

It is common knowledge that saying God's name in vain is a sin. Manipulating God's name and unfairly illegal acts is not a new tactic again. This was used by the Spanish colonizers to subjugate our forebears. After grabbing our lands and enslaving, torturing and killing those who resisted them, they claimed everything that they were doing was the "will of God," and they tried to colonize the hearts of our forebears by promising them an afterlife filled with joy and happiness as a reward for all their earthly good endeavors.

History tells us that not everyone swallowed that propaganda. The Katipuneros and their supporters knew that, in a large degree, salvation had to be sought by people themselves. And so they rose up in arms against the "God-quoting" Spanish colonizers and drove them out of our country—only to be betrayed by the Americans, whose President William McKinley claimed (in the dubious) that it is God's will to keep us "Mandirot Destiny" policy, with which he justified US subjugation of the Philippines.

GMA's penchant for dropping the name of God also recalls the Filipino language.

When the opposition seems to get to the bottom of the truth behind the alleged election fraud, the multimillion-dollar Hacienda Luisita deals, the guns, goons, ganja deals, the guns and blonds, such as the cultivated prompt to response (CPR) policy, ID 464 and Proclamation 1017.

GMA's claim that she and her wrongdoings are God's will is a massive delusion.

—RUSELL PH,
General Santos of the Philippines (GSP),
10 Bonni Bayorun, QC

The Philippines: Pearl of the Orient no more?

SUBIC IS A NATION SADLY BESET with robberies.—El Niño, 24 Hrs., 3/16/09, and now La Ghosa Shoes, the Pearl of the Orient, we are now the Shame of the Orient.

We have a weak leader who governs by accommodation and empty rhetoric, thus encouraging more corruption which we have had for many decades. Widespread poverty ensues, addressed with fake compassion.

Sadly, we don't have much to crow about as the only Christian nation in the Orient.

A weak leader is not heavy indeed. A weak nation is one to suffer.

—VICTOR MURILLO,
656 Bahandika St.,
Pinkview 1930,
Mandaluyong City

LETTERS

A paradise for tourists

AFTER A PROLONGED SILENCE from the pages of the Daily Tribune, you've written about the Philippines have made a comeback. The articles have greatly interested us, as our daughter lives in the Philippines. She was the subject of Ramon Tulfo's News Few column entitled Beyond Belief.

The Telegraph reported on the recent unemployment, and it was followed by an article about the new Secretary Blanco, with a photo of his wife having thrown on his preserved body.

The latest was a photo of the former Imee Bolde, which are plagued by a weeks infestation. It would seem that this "idyllic" area—the Telegraph's word for—could be saved by reinstating cars on the territory, but this cannot be done for lack of funds.

Then there was on the BBC about on child prostitution in the Philippines, which was greatly disturbing.

My wife and I went to Manila for Christmas to attend the baptism of our godchildren. In the church, separated from the family group, performed in the baptismal font, I was accosted by two very young girls selling flowers. The youngest was attired and said, "My name is 15, Sir. Do I for?" At first, she must have been 10. Enough said.

During the course of a very enjoyable fortnight, my wife often remarked, "Isn't it a pity that they can't get their act together?"

On the last day of our stay we said the baptism and, sure enough, those cried much were there, from one of the newspaper's pundits.

Our travel section in the Telegraph never ever mentions the Philippines. But I feel that, without much to offer, your country could at least advertise itself more—corruption, Department of Tourism.

In my case, the Philippines is the second cheapest place in the world to live in. A paradise for tourists who drink, smoke or use our local orchestra(?).

Tourists would be just a start. Another positive step would be to order all the assets of bandits thieves, redistribute these to the poor, and make her rest her living as a realistic pension. Where, exactly, did all her money come from?

—DAVID ROBERTS,
2 Harefield Rd.,
Royston Regis, West Sussex,
SG8 5HH, England

People's initiative not on the agenda

THE FRONT PAGE OF THE Bulgarian's 3/18/09 issue carried a large photo of a streamer displayed at the Legaspi Village Park in Makati. The streamer urged constituents to attend our annual barangay general assembly. We were pleased with the publicity. The photo caption, however, indicated that "Only the year it's different. Its main agenda is to kick off a signature campaign to amend the Constitution."

May we inform the public of the following:

1. We in Barangay San Lorenzo have been living in almost fidelity to existing laws, including to the rule on the conduct of barangay general assemblies. Last year, we held three general assemblies—none from the number required by law. We held barangay assemblies in our honest desire to keep officials in touch with our people.

2. We also abide by the wisdom of holding synchronized general assemblies. This way, no barangay would be remiss in its function of canvassing its constituents.

3. Lastly, as we see it, we in the barangay stand in dignity and will not allow ourselves to be used to serve other people's selfish agenda. We will neither manipulate nor exploit our own constituents. People's initiative to change the Constitution was not listed in our agenda for the March 22 general assembly.

As barangay chair, the least that I can do regarding the matter is to respect the intentions of our people.

—MARIA ROSARIO SANTIAGO,
barangay chair,
Barangay San Lorenzo,
85 Amsterdam St.,
San Lorenzo Village,
Makati City

Promoting the Filipino language as a matter of national pride

IT'S STRANGE THAT WHILE we, Filipinos, prefer to watch TV news and shows in Filipino, the use of the national language is ever on the wane, being pummeled.

Big franchised chains, such as Jollibee and McDonald's, train their personnel to speak English when dealing with customers. Announcements made through paging systems in shopping malls are in English. Telephone operators, cashiers and receptionists speak to English when attending to clients. Our honorable senators and congressmen deliver their speeches in English. In the case by government officials when they are to the United Nations, for instance, boost and dignity, they speak not in Filipino, the result, the UN one have the speeches translated instantly into other languages.

How though English is accepted as a second language in our country, we must make special efforts to promote the national language for the benefit of our children and the national dignity.

—L. INCIRCIRCIL
cmlincircil@yahoo.com

Why the coup d'état failed

I WAS HOOKED BUT RELIEVED to read the banner news story "Nine it can be told: Why 'withdrawal plan failed' by Tony S. Briguera. (PDI, 3/11/09)

So some military men really staged a coup! It might have been hoodlum like the one staged by Gen. Angelito Reyes in 2006, but it was a coup just the same. Some people may call it "withdrawing support from the chain of command." But, to all intents and purposes, it was a coup.

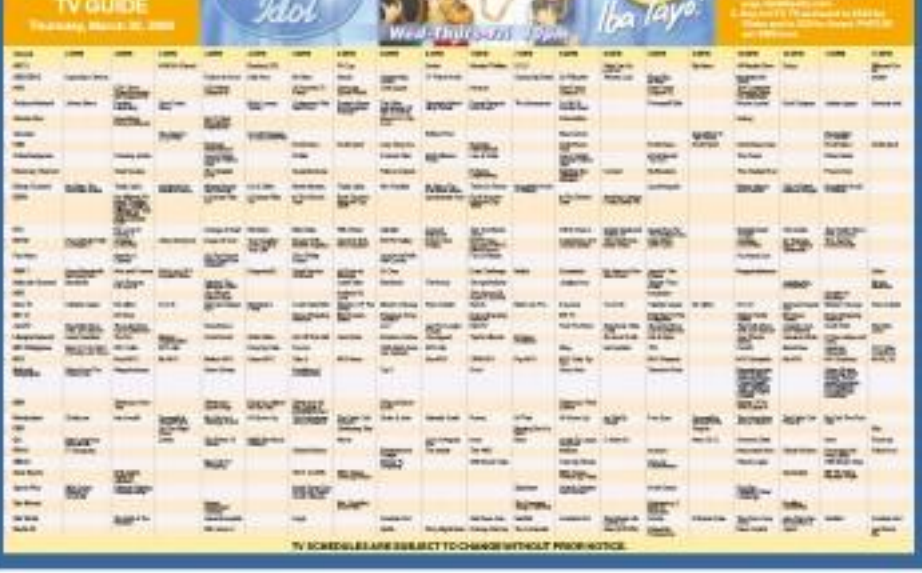
The story did not mention the civilians involved. But there must have been a civilian component. How could have provided the coup with a semblance of legitimacy by way of "people power." Thanks to Divine Providence, the coup did not succeed. A military-led government, even for a short time, would result in unspeakable misery, even a civil war.

Allowing the military to take control of the highest political authority is a very dangerous game. We Pro-Americans have some illusions of the military advocate anti-Christian and anti-Catholic ideologies. If these people gain political power, they might use it to persecute the Catholic Church, subtly in the beginning but violently later on.

Moreover, a military takeover is unconstitutional, even if done with good and noble intentions. Besides, what is the guarantee that a military rule will indeed be short as the plotters vowed when it would be? Political power has a dazzling effect that can render to finally blind those who indulge.

Benigno's wife was outright caring. It grew up on more western thinking. I am convinced that God always rules over all the only Christian country in the Far East.

—MANUEL FELIX E. BELMONTE,
bertwin@hotmail.com.ph



Fortune CARE

annual awards 2006

Jonathan T. Burby
RGB-1st place GAM

Lee G. Rapalija
LGRA-2nd place GAM

Ana Maria B. Burby
RGB-1st place AM

Leigh H. Velarde
RGB-2nd place AM

Arabeth A. Tabudlo
WAGA-3rd place AM

Ana Lyn L. Rapalija
LDRA-1st place AE

Janet L. Almazan
AA-2nd place AE

Alfredo R. Hio
VA-3rd place AE

Agency Manager Level

Sonia D. Salazar
(WAGA-4th Place

Ruel V. Almazan
(AA)-5th Place

Account Executive Level

March 30, 2006
Mandarin Oriental, 6pm

messages....

President of the Republic of the Philippines

Congratulations to the top sales producers of Fortune Medicare Incorporated (FortuneCare). Tomorrow is tonight's Annual Awards Program. Likewise, I greet the management, officers and staff, and members of the field sales team of FortuneCare as you hold this event.

I commend FortuneCare for your efforts to fulfill the goal you have set for yourself - to provide affordable, quality and comprehensive healthcare to your close to 300,000 members.

After two decades, FortuneCare stands firm as a leading member of the health maintenance organization industry. Your establishment of a wide network of clinics to serve as many people as possible and your use of the latest information and communication technology for improved efficiency are indeed laudable.

By working hand in hand to attain success and stability for your company, you render valuable service to our people through your healthcare programs and quality service, and that is what makes you a dynamic partner of the government.

Let us continue to work together in ensuring the good health of our people. May this event inspire you to work more for the benefit of your clientele.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

President
Fortune Medicare Incorporated

I would like to give my warmest congratulations to our outstanding sales advisors for 2006 as well as to the rest of the FortuneCare family who have proven once again the company's commitment to take care of the Filipino's health.

Indeed these individual milestones that you dear agents have achieved, when put together, make up the success of FortuneCare. In our 20 years of existence in the HMO industry, you have been my partners in consistently securing the high quality of healthcare in the country. Allow me to thank all of you for your unwavering support and immense effort in this endeavor.

Being in this business allowed us to make a difference in the lives of our clients, through our comprehensive healthcare services. In the years to come, let us continue touching lives as we aim for more developments, more upgrades in our facilities and more success. We can attain every goal as long as we remain united and determined.

Again, congratulations to all of us and more power!

J. ANTONIO A. CABANGIN, JR.

Qualifiers (agency manager)

1. Albarracin, Isabelita E.	WAGA	2. Manalo, Teresita O.	TWA

Qualifiers (account executive)

1.	Mallari, Marife T.	Angeles	20.	Miranda, Edilberto M.	RGB
2.	Lapastora, Cynthia L.	Los Baños	21.	Ruiz, Trinette B.	RGB
3.	Dacanay, Carla T.	TGA	22.	Aldana, Arlene V.	TGA
4.	Tabuquero, Ebet B.	Tarlac	23.	Vivo, Rebecca S.	Angeles
5.	Adiao, Amelia P.	Angeles	24.	Perico, Joseph Ma. A.	LDRA
6.	Grafil, Edelmiro A.	RGB	25.	Figueroa, Evangelina M.	RBA
7.	Talan, William	RGB	26.	Lopez, Ramil F.	TWA
8.	Isidoro, Renato Luis	VA	27.	Quiambao, Ma. Asuncion	TGA
9.	Hilario, Ma. Concepcion V.	Lubao	28.	Dagoc, Ramil	Tarlac
10.	Vargas, Ma. Theresa C.	Batangas	29.	Agustin, Fernando M.	RBA
11.	Bautista, Arnel	Palawan	30.	Jurisprudencia, Urmilla	Cavite
12.	Bautista, Venancio Jr. V.	WAGA	31.	Quiroz, Normelinda B.	Va
13.	Velarde, Norma T.	RGB	32.	Albarracin, Ma. Victoria V.	WAGA
14.	Lapastora, Lucina P.	Los Baños	33.	Alcantara, Joanne Kristine	WAA
15.	Hio, Noida N.	Palawan	34.	Venno, Ernesto C.	RBA
16.	Mallari, Antonio	RGB	35.	Cervantes, Edna T.	LDRA
17.	Manuel, Evangeline C.	LDRA	36.	Cadiao, Miguel P.	Palawan
18.	Cruzado, Hercel P.	RGA	37.	Velas, Angelito	Angeles
19.	Dionancio, Rosilie	Iloilo	38.	Vasquez, Erlinda F.	TWA

Across the NATION

8 injured in bus bombing in Digos

THE BOMBED bus in its Digos City terminal.

DIGOS CITY—EIGHT PERSONS WERE INJURED when a bomb exploded inside a Davao City-bound bus here at about 11 a.m. yesterday.

The bus, driven by Arnold Bargil, came from Cotabato City with 23 passengers and was about to push in the Public Terminal B here when the explosion occurred.

Police identified the victims, seven of whom were passengers of the bombed bus, as engineer Gerry Pichal, 63, and his son Cielo Alam, 12; Jonny Dao, 33; Daniel Mebolotes, 39; Jesus Bing-sumokan; Rodjanie Sawadi and Sgt. Merlito Magan of the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion based in South Cotabato; and retired cmdr Sherieluna Lamsa, 63.

The explosion occurred as the New People's Army (NPA) was celebrating its 37th founding anniversary.

But police authorities declined to say whether the explosion had something to do with the NPA anniversary.

On Tuesday, Jorge Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Mindanao, vowed more attacks to have "maximum bloodshed" as the NPA celebrates its anniversary.

Digos City Mayor Arsenio Cagas condemned the bombing and said those behind it should have not involved civilians.

"If they want to make political statements, they should not involve the civilians. They could always attack the military or the police," he said.

But Lamsa did not categorically say if the NPA was behind the blast.

"We can't say as of now if it is really related to that. We are still investigating," Senior Supt. Hosang Pagtal, Davao del Sur police chief, said.

Police said they have not identified the culprit of bomb used.

"There was no suspect as it was not really intended to harm," an investigator said.

He said the injuries suffered by the victims came from shattered window glasses.

The blast also damaged two other buses.

Magno, the injured soldier, said he was a mere tech to leave the bus as it parked at the terminal.

"Seconds after he alighted, a deafening explosion occurred," Magno told investigators.

The explosion came as PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao reiterated his call for Congress to immediately pass the antiterrorism bill.

"The proposed antiterrorism law will enable authorities to conserve, restrain and control the threat of terrorism more effectively," said Lomibao in a statement.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, head of the PNP intelligence group, said the law would allow police to detain a terrorist suspect for at least 10 days without charges being filed against him. Central Luzon region police in-laws suspects held for 36 hours if no charges were filed against him. *Helen S. Aguirre, Phil Mendoza Bureau and Judge del Puerto, in Manila*

ROUNDUP

Scholarship guidelines

THE BOARD of San Jose Mindoro Community Association in Canada (SJMCC) has released the guidelines for its scholarship fund for deserving students of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. Initial funds for the first year of implementation has been set at P100,000, according to a news release. All pre-qualified applicants should submit a 1,000-word essay on the question: "What do you think should San Jose local government do to attract local and foreign tourists to visit the town of San Jose?" SJMMC is a private, non-profit volunteer-driven organization based in Ontario. For details, e-mail ibet.bonilla@sjmsa.org or ben.cigaral@sjmsa.org.

Carabao fest in Calapan

CITY OF CALAPAN—On its 8th foundation anniversary, the city government celebrated its first "Sibiwan (Shining Rubbleed Festival" from March 13 to 21. Mayor Carlos Bi-ual, who grew up on a farmer, said he wanted the city recognized for its attributes as an agricultural area and the carabao, as a symbol of life and cushion, as well and its big potential to attract tourists under-scored. "Bin celebration featured, among others, an inter-barangay six-days mascot parade and a carabao painting contest.

Mahmoor Ulrak, PDI-Southern Luzon Bureau

Cavite exec shot dead

CARMONA CITY—Unidentified persons shot dead a Cavite provincial official and his companion outside a gate bar in Brea Martires City over the weekend. Police said Manuel Alba, 41, city engineer of this town and resident of Barangay Iruhan-on, and Medardo Ogalla, 35, of Barangay De Ocampo, were having a drinking session inside a cockpit bar when they engaged the group of suspects Michael Cimeano, Richard Rosa and Michael Montenit in a heated argument. He said the drunken men burned empty bottles of beer against each other. Bottles. Be suspects left the cockpit bar and warned the victims that they would come back. Witnesses said that a few minutes later, the suspects came back armed with shotguns. Another companion, Roberto Santos, 44, was wounded in the attack.

Marlon Ramos, PDI-Southern Luzon Bureau

Motorcycle hits truck; 5 dead

CORAMAL CITY—At least five persons died while a boy was wounded when a motorized tricycle smashed into an approaching cargo truck in Pigtaweyan, North Cotabato on Saturday, according to a police report. Only three of the fatalities had been identified in the report. These were Barrolomeo Antolin, Basilio Ayong and Cherry Mae Iguez. A boy, named Robert Jaena, was also injured in the accident, according to the report. It was not clear how he was related to Basilio.

Jocelyn Mateo, PDI-Mindanao Bureau

Gowns made of recyclables

MALAYAN, Oriental Mindoro—Evening gowns made of recyclable materials like plastics wowed the audience here on Saturday during the search for the Lalawinan ng Kapatagan. Organized by the Army's 204th Infantry Brigade, the search had as many entrepreneur aside from a question-and-answer part, making the contest criteria to include originality and Mindoro beauty. Eight public schools from different towns competed.

Mahmoor Ulrak, PDI-Southern Luzon Bureau

Investment summit in Mindoro

CITY OF CALAPAN—Powered on power and energy, tourism, agribusiness, logistics and infrastructure and social development will highlight the first Oriental Mindoro investment Summit on April 5-6 here. The summit is organized by the University of Nueva and the Pacific (UNAP), provincial government officials and the Mindoro Business Association Foundation. Bernardo Virgilio, SUAP senior vice president, said a special feature of the summit is the tour package of "Lakbay Mindoro" on participants can check on the investment climate, the potential investment sites for wind, geothermal and hydroelectric power plants, and possible agribusiness and infrastructure ventures.

Mahmoor Ulrak, PDI-Southern Luzon Bureau

Communist services in the countryside

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The New People's Army (NPA) has been providing services to areas not reached by the government, according to Jorge Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao. The communist rebels have provided health services, embarked on a "literacy program" to help educate the poor, and helped increase productivity by preventing livelihood to people in the countryside, Madlos said. The NPA has been growing, proof that it has been gaining support from the people.

Erwin C. Alfonso, PDI-Mindanao Bureau

Ex-cameraman stabbed dead

GINGOOG, SAMO SIS CITY—A former cameraman of ABS-CBNnews was stabbed to death inside his son-in-law's store early Monday morning. Police said the body of Eddie Enan was found with two fatal stab wounds, one of which was in the heart. He was 57 years old. Enan was also hit with a blunt object. Bondi said they were discounting robbery because the victim's cash collection worth P100,000 and his mobile phone were not taken.

Nonito T. Donaire, PDI-Mindanao Bureau

MILF, gov't still deadlocked on ancestral domain

COTABATO CITY—TOO MANY issues, too little time.

This was how a ranking Moslem Liberation Front (MILF) official described last week's negotiations between his group and the Philippine government in Kuala Lumpur.

The talks, which resumed on the issue of ancestral domain, ended without substantial results.

Jun Shantrail, head of the MILF peace panel secretariat, said both sides failed to reconcile some "last issues" contained in the consensus points on the ancestral domain issue that both panels agreed on in February.

Among those issues were on revenue sharing and other economic aspects of the Moro's political territory that the government and the MILF expects to agree on.

"There were simply too many issues to handle in a limited time frame of barely two days," he said.

Asked to elaborate on the talks, Shantrail said there was really nothing to talk about because it was "inconclusive and both sides will have to meet again."

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal also declined to discuss the specifics of the recent talks.

But he said the MILF had already foreseen that the negotiations, held on March 21-22, "would end up nowhere."

"The MILF panel already knew that it was into the peak of the talks and, therefore, sought and had long-standing meetings to prepare along the way," he said.

Jesus Dureza, presidential peace adviser, said the government is talking to other stakeholders of the peace process in order "to feel and get their sentiments" on the agreements that many believed would redesign the landscape of Mindanao's peace and development program.

Zaharin D. Fernandez, Phil Mendoza Bureau

FLOATING JUNK
A rusting fishing boat becomes a piece of junk on the shores of Punta Dumalag, Davao City.

Palparan offers to donate eyes if he dies

By Evandree Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—MAJGEN anything happen to him, controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the so-called "butcher" of political activists, has his eyes donated to a local eye bank.

But would there be takers?

"Bahir donahonan ng makakakita ang mga mata ko (My eyes might strike fear in their recipients)," Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon, said.

Members of militant and party-list groups have blamed Palparan and his men for a string of killings that victimized political activists in his previous assignments in Mindoro and Samar and in Central Luzon, where he was assigned starting September last year.

Palparan, 55, who now wears eyeglasses, said a doctor who examined his eyes had said that disease would not be needed despite his imperfect vision.

He announced his decision to donate his eyes when he spoke during the anniversary celebration of the Cavid Foundation here on Thursday last week.

The foundation, which was formed and led by businesswoman Carol de Jesus, has been helping poor patients in Nueva Ecija who are suffering from cataract.

De Jesus, who has been coordinating her foundation's activities with Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III and a group of volunteer eye doctors from Silver Hands, said her foundation is putting up an eye bank in the province.

Palparan also released an executive order on the computerized bearings on his confirmation where a representative suggested that his easy "moment to be not telling the truth" in relation to accusations of human rights violations against him.

"Sabi niya eksy naman daw akong makikinig sa mga *Bayan* ang mga akusasyon ng mga militants ay nagyon daw katotohanan sa pamamagitan ng pagtingin at pagbabasa sa aking mga records (The representative said I can get along with people well. But this said the accusations of the militants seemed correct, judging from the way I look and it showed throughout voice)," he said.

Palparan said the prospective recipient might reject his eyes if he or she would know that it came from him.

But he said he was trying his best to build another image for those whose area being patrolled by the "monster of the mine" who roamed in disorder him.

"Di nga, eto, eto going around talking to people. I try to appear approachable and charming," he said.

PALPARAN'S eyes

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Florante G. Solmerano

Student leader's family seeks justice

By Bobby Q. Labalan
Iriga, Naga

CRIS HUGO WANTED TO BE a priest, but his father, SPO1 Cirilaco Hugo, moved him out of the seminary, afraid that no one would carry on his name if his only son chose to become celibate.

The policeman of Irosin, Sorsogon had big dreams for Cris, foremost of which was to see him a successful family man.

After spending two years in high school at the Archdiocesan Seminary in Sorsogon City, the boy was transferred to the Colmenares National High School (CNHS) in Irosin.

After graduation, Cris wanted to enroll at the University of the Philippines-Baguio, his father observed, noting how UP students become militants and activists.

Death

In a decided son, Cris relented. This March, he would have been among the graduating students of the Bicol University's College of Arts and Letters, with a degree in Bachelor of Arts, Major in Journalism. He would never have the chance of marching up the stage to receive his diploma.

Cris, the eldest among three siblings and barely 20 years old, was gunned down on the night of March 19 by a lone assailant while walking with a professor friend in Albay District, Legazpi City. They had been discussing for upcoming in-company training (ICT) in Manila the summer.

Cris was the regional coordinator of the militant League of Filipino Students (LFS) and pound chancellor of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity in BU. He was said to be the youngest militant leader killed in Bicol.

The young victim was in the national council of the LFS, which has chapters in various prestigious colleges and universities, and high schools across the country.

Militant organizations allied with the student group pointed to the military as responsible for the death of Cris.

Till today, however, no one could say for certain about the charge.

"It is not for us to speculate. Let the investigators do their job. All that we want is justice," Cirilaco told the reporters in the vernacular.

Cris's mother Rowena, a teacher at the 494 ES, said the family had sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation for a speedy probe.

Last meeting

Rowena said she last saw her son on March 17, a Friday, when he attended the parents' meeting in preparation for the graduating students' ICT.

She recalled how Cris had assured her to stay with him that day.

After the meeting, she said, they went in the mall and the park, and Cris even asked her if

ROWENA and Cirilaco Hugo look at the body of their eldest child and only son, Cris, a student leader who was killed by a lone gunman in Legazpi City on March 19.

THE Bicol University community also demands justice for its murdered student.

she wanted to go to the movies. "It seemed that he didn't want me away from him," the grieving teacher said.

"He seemed me to sleep at his boarding house. He asked me not to go home yet. I told him his father would be angry. But, he said, 'Even if Papa gets angry, he can do nothing about it,'" Rowena narrated.

Bad news

The woman recalled how Cris was so excited about his upcoming training. "He requested me to buy him some clothes and shoes. I never thought it would be the last time that I would see him alive."

The bad news came at around 1:30 a.m. on March 20 through a phone call from Rowena's sister-in-law, whose brother works as a doctor at the Bicol Regional Teaching and Training Hospital.

Her in-law informed them that Cris was at the hospital with bullet wounds. The family was never told that he was already dead.

The trip to the hospital, 86 kilometers away from Irosin, seemed an eternity for the Hugos. When they finally arrived, they saw Cris's younger sister Cristelyn crying beside his body.

According to the NBI autopsy report, Cris had two bullet wounds in the breast and another one near the armpit, inflicted by a .45 cal. pistol.

Rowena said the news brought her son would ever cause a violent death.

Cris had been a friendly and jolly person since he was a child. He had no known enemy, not even a death threat.

But being vigilant was a trait that he had shown ever when he was still in high school, his mother said.

Rowena recalled an incident when Cris initiated a rally complete with placards, at the GSHS to protest a school policy that he believed was not in the best interest of the students.

He would never keep silent or something he thought was wrong, she said.

Happy moments

His former classmates at the seminary, Albert Lee and Rommel Gentes, recalled happy moments with Cris. They described him as very supportive and good to class.

His vigilance and assertiveness were two characteristics that Cris continued even when he was already in college. Because of these, he figured in numerous antigovernment rallies and demonstrations.

Cirilaco admitted that he had knowledge of his son's involvement in progressive organizations and he would always remind him to stop mingling with them.

Once, the father related, he was summoned by Supt. Edgar Chavez, intelligence chief of the provincial police, regarding his son's activities.

At the time, Cris was on a short home in Barangay San Juan, to be tagged him along and pressured him to his superiors.

Campus leader

That encounter didn't seem to discourage Cris from continuing his work with the progressive organizations. He continued to join rallies in Albay.

His classmates said that indeed Cris was one of the most vocal student leaders on the campus, but they never saw anything wrong with his activities.

Sun Cruzeau, Cris's mentor and fraternity brother, described him as a "college student supporting Grade 6" in village student who looked like a Grade 6 pupil.

"Cris is a kind person, a typical homegrown person, but he was deep," he said.

"It was all brought about by his deep convictions for justice and his what is right, and progress, those who were behind his death saw in him the potentials of a leader who could ignite others you taking serious against those to power," a close friend, who requested anonymity, said.

The BU community, the LFS, the APO, the Justice for Cris Movement, the Hugo family and the entire community would be one in demanding justice for Cris when he is laid to rest tomorrow.

Domestic violence written off from village justice system

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PIA, Camarines Sur

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN and children, which had long been silently accepted as a domestic problem, is now written off from the village justice system following the implementation of the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9262).

Dimitri Vibar, Camarines Sur director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, said all cases relating to abuse against women and children that were commonly settled at the village level because of their domestic character, were now referred/submitted to the regular courts for prosecution.

Vibar warned village officials not to entertain complaints of this nature as they could be held criminally and administratively liable if they did so.

He advised those to refer these cases to high authorities and refrain from facilitating their settlement because the perpetrators are relatives of the victims or the problem is considered domestic.

RA 9262 has effectively written off cases of domestic violence from the jurisdiction of the village justice system. Village officials have been ordered to directly assist victims in file their complaints at the prosecutors' office or the regular courts, Vibar said.

Violence

The law defines violence against women and their children as "any act or series of acts by any person against the woman which result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering or economic abuse, including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty."

It also considers it a crime for any person who (that is) force a woman or her child to engage in a behavior that they have the right to decide from.

It prohibits persons from trying to control or restricting the freedom of movement of a woman or her child or conduct by force or threat of force, physical or other harm, or intimidation directed against the woman or her child.

According to the law, physical violence consists of acts that cause physical injuries while sexual violence includes any act which is sexual in nature committed against a woman or her child, like rape, sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness and treating a woman or her child as a sex object.

Economic abuse

RA 9262 has also included economic abuse in the crime of violence against women and children.

Among the acts considered economic abuse are withdrawal of financial support, preventing the woman from engaging in legitimate profession, occupation or activity, deprivation or threat of deprivation of financial resources, destroying household property, and controlling the victim's money or property.

Destruction, damage to property, repeated verbal abuse, and marital infidelity are now considered crimes of violence against women and children under psychological abuse, which RA 9262 defines as "acts or omissions causing or likely to cause mental or emotional suffering."

Domingo Brioso, provincial president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, said the government had already directed all village officials to comply with the implementation requirements of the law.

An information seminar was also held recently regarding the implementing rules.

The village chief or council member is authorized to intervene to prevent the perpetrator of violence from harming the victim, Brioso said.

TOP OF THE CLASS. President Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates Cadet first class Benjamin Bulos, class valedictorian, during yesterday's graduation of the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite.

You've lost right to free speech, GMA tells cops

By Christine O. Avendaño

SILANG, CAVITE—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo told new police graduates yesterday that they have no right to free speech and assured them against joining groups out to remove her from power.

At its last week's graduation rites at the Philippine Military Academy, Mr Arroyo emphasized the same caveat and stick approach in her speech yesterday to the state's 577 graduates of the Philippine National Police Academy here, promising them housing and other benefits and warning they would be punished for disloyalty.

Talking about the need for discipline, Mr Arroyo invoked a couple of lines from the classic "The Charge of the Light Brigade": "But theirs is not to reason why/ theirs is but to do or die."

The Supreme Court has ruled that "If you have a right to hold guns, you necessarily limit your right to free speech," the President said. "That is what is meant by discipline of uniformed services."

She said she was elated by PNPA Class 2006 valedictorian Cdt. 1st Class Benjamin Bulos' speech, which dwelt on the need for police officers to "reserve the sanctity of the chain of command and to stick to their mandates as public safety officers."

"Therefore, be wary of vested interests behind seemingly attractive promises of otherwise lost actualls, they put to great risk the future of the nation," the President said.

Uniformed adventurists

Mr Arroyo warned that any move even at coups or "uniformed adventurists" would have severe repercussions on the economy, "and as I said last week, we cannot keep sweeping disloyalty under the rug."

Issuing that a bright future awaited the graduates, Mr Arroyo said policemen would see benefits from a recent P1,000-increase in monthly allowances given to all government employees as well as from a government housing project.

She said she has asked Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno to inspect police camps throughout the country to see if portions of the land could be used for housing.

She said policemen, prison wardens and guards, fire inspectors and fire officers will benefit from a 1,600-hectare housing project in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Located in Silang, Cavite, the Philippine National Police Academy is the country's premier educational and training institution for policemen. It provides a four-year program for future officers of the PNP, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The PNPA was created in 1977 by Presidential Decree No. 1184, also known as the Integrated National Police Personnel Professionalization Law. It was first located in Fort Bonifacio and its first batch of graduates consisted of 30 cadets. During the last academic year, PNPA had around 900 cadets training at Camp Castañeda in Cavite, the academy's homevalues 1994.

It was elevated to a state university in 1981, making its cadets full government scholars. They receive allowances and a monthly pay of P11,419.

PNPA started admitting female cadets in 1993. With a report from Cyrell D. Ramaberon; PNA Research

Miriam's heart beats irregularly

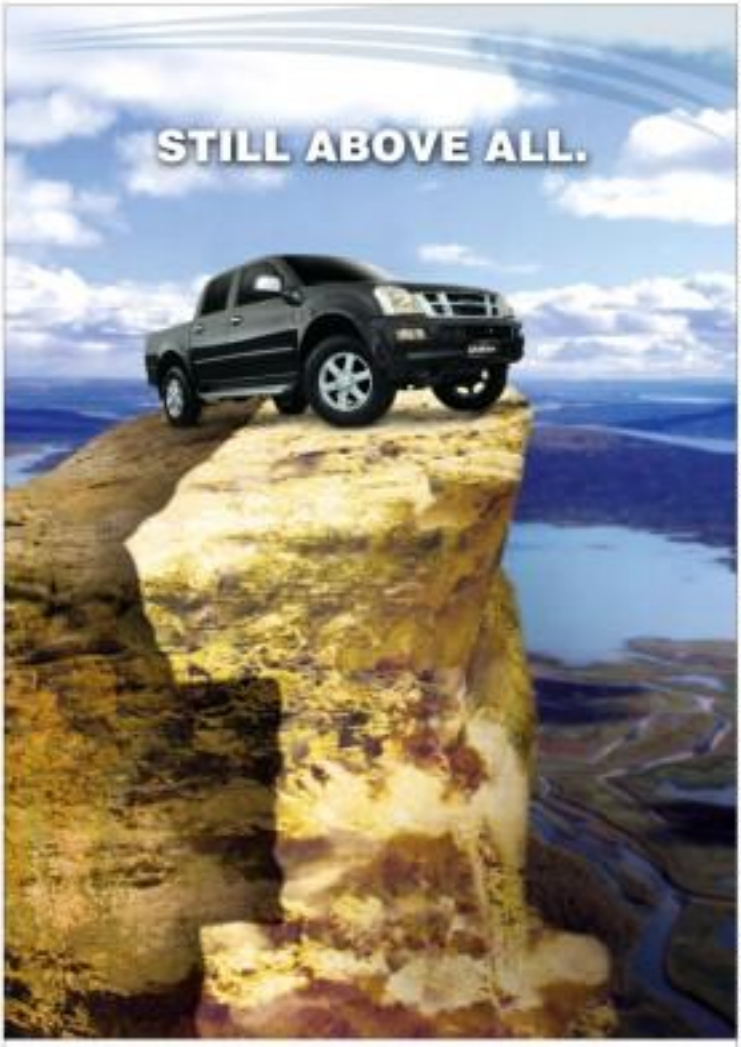
SENATOR RAFFOS SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-Santiago yesterday sought to clarify reports of her illness, which she said had elicited inquiries and concern from many people.

Santiago clarified that she was suffering from arrhythmia, or an abnormal heart rate and rhythm, which could lead to complications like a stroke. Because of this, she might need a pacemaker to regulate her heartbeat, she said. The senator suffered a "very mild" stroke last year.

"It can lead to fatal cardiac arrest. My family has a history of arrhythmia, which led to the death while asleep of my two young brothers," Santiago said in a statement.

But she said her cases who specializes in cardiology research at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, has said that "considering my brilliant and clear cardiac anatomy, my heart condition is not serious and will not affect life expectancy, particularly when I am fighting against Charter change."

Santiago was referring to the Supreme Court ruling in 1997 that there was no adequate law providing for a procedure to change the Constitution through a people's initiative. (See related story on Page 11) Philip C. Tubeza



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14 cops in businessman's accidental shooting face raps

By Leiza A. del Puerto

LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER policemen shot and wounded a businessman by mistake in Pasig City, Philippine National Police Chief Director General Arturo Lomibao has approved the filing of formal charges against them.

Fourteen officers of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) were hit with charges of "less serious neglect of duty" for allegedly violating Napolcom Memorandum No. 2005-048 on the use of force.

Lomibao made the decision on Monday, a day after Pasig City Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco recommended the filing of charges against the officers.

Velasco found probable cause to believe that the suspects pose an imminent danger of death to the police or other persons, and use of firearms does not create danger to the public that outweighs the likely benefits of its use. The nature of damage sustained by the car of the businessman, Randolph Daniel, justifies the use of excessive force, endangering the lives of innocent people to the prejudice of the public," Director Marcelo Ballesteros said in a statement yesterday.

Investigation

Lomibao ordered Ballesteros, the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, to investigate the March 7 incident.

That night, officers from the TMG were looking for the crossposts of a Toyota Altis who had allegedly shot to cut traffic accident group of policemen in Cubao, Quezon City late Sun. at least eight.

The policemen earlier received information that the car had been sighted on Lennox Drive near Villa Verde in Pasig City. They went to the scene, took up checkpoint positions in the area, but shot the wrong car, a Toyota Vios driven by Daniel. TMG officers later admitted their mistake, and said they thought it was the same car.

Their superiors also quoted the TMG cops as saying that Daniel did not stop when they flagged him down, prompting them to shoot him. Daniel drove himself to the hospital after he was wounded in the leg and shoulder.

The officers charged with less serious neglect of duty were PO2 Efren Avisto, PO2 Renato Sabanan, PO1 Jeffrey Abaid, PO1 Joseph Marvin, PO1 Arvin Asuncion, PO1 Rolando Hipolito, PO1 Reynaldo Pellerpina, SPO2 Jeninjo Guzman, PO2 Marcelino Dacudo, PO2 Walter Olvena, PO2 Gon Delgado, PO2 Norman Jacinto, PO2 Ruben Mission and PO2 Michael Locsino.

The OIDM had found "probable cause" to initiate summary dismissal proceedings against the officers, the crew of four TMG mobile units, according Eli. The use of force was unnecessary because the car's occupant was "unarmed," he added.

Separate charge

Apart from facing charges for violating the PNP's operational procedures, Eli also recommended a separate charge of "grave misconduct" against Arvin Asuncio, Abaid, Martin, Avisto, Hipolito and Delegado for alleged "reckless imprudence resulting to damage to property."

He also recommended that Sarota, Sabban and Abaid be placed on a 90-day preventive suspension. The trio also face charges of "conducting operation without authority" as well as charges of "physical injuries."

One-stop shops for mall inventory

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS would be setting up makeshift "one-stop shops" in the 148 Shopping Mall in Binondo, Manila to facilitate the inventory and hearings on seized imported items it had discovered in a recent raid.

With the establishment of the one-stop shops, the items would no longer be brought to the bureau's warehouses but could remain in the mall premises.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the one-stop, requested earlier by tenants, would fast-track the bureau's inventory and assessment of the seized items.

"Since the necessary customs officials would be at the one-stop shops, the tenants need not go to the BOC office for the hearings on their items, and we would not need to haul the goods to the warehouses. The processes would be hasty," Morales said yesterday.

The shops would be manned by customs appraisers, lawyers and personnel. During the hearings, the tenants are supposed to explain where they obtained their imported goods and whether or not they paid taxes. If not, they would have to pay them, apart from penalties.

The BOC would set up the one-stop shops on mall floors of the malls as soon as Monday or Tuesday, the second anchor or day preceding the guidelines for the consumption or duty operations on that day.

Customs officials are still conducting an inventory of the suspected smuggled goods at the mall, which has about 800 tenants. Customs and Manila police have been guarding the mall 24 hours a day to ensure that the tenants would not smuggle out their goods.

The BOC raided the 148 mall two weeks ago upon the complaint of the Philippine Retailers Association for unfair trade practices.

Navotas factory mishap downs 7 persons

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A FACTORY WORKER SUFFERED severe burns while nine persons were hospitalized after a tank containing ammonia blew a valve in a big ice factory in the Navotas Fish Port Complex yesterday morning.

Vicente Bautista Sr., an employee of the Fish Port Ice Plant Inc., was facing the valve when it blew, releasing a "large quantity of ammonia," a police investigator said. Bautista suffered severe burns in his arms, legs and groin while his colleagues complained of tightness in the chest and shortness of breath after they inhaled the chemical. A nurse who lived near the plant was brought to the Tondo Medical Center after he experienced the same symptoms.

Manny a no-show again in courtroom

By DJ Yap

SEPTIME HE MEETS MEXICAN OSCAR Larios in a boxing match this July, Manny Pacquiao should first face his legal foes, said Joanna Rose Barona, his alleged former girlfriend and mother of a two-year-old boy she claims is the boxing champ's son. "I hope he'll be man enough to face us before his next fight," Barona said.

Pacquiao was again a no-show at yesterday's hearing at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court where Barona has filed charges of violating the law protecting women and children from violence against him.

Barona's lawyer, Vivian Rodrigues, said, "Ordinarily, a person who is innocent is eager to face his accuser, but if he's guilty, then he will subsonit all legal remedies to avoid a meeting."

Barona, who has accused Pacquiao of refusing to support their child and even threatening to have the boy kidnapped if she were to file charges, submitted her reply to Pacquiao's counsel-of-record yesterday. The lawyer earlier denied Barona's charges but neither confirmed nor denied having an affair with her. He has avoided meeting his accuser and threats of legal suit in previous hearings.

In her reply Barona said Pacquiao's denial of having engaged in a romantic relationship with her was contrary to his claim that he had given sufficient support to the child.

If the boxer did not believe the boy was his child, then it was strange that he should give financial support to them, she pointed out.

NEXT: High School valedictorian Mary Katherine Macalalad offers her 14 medals to her mother, Lenora, whom she called her "major inspiration."

METRO BRIEFS

Man gets life for shaba

A NPA self-styled Lt Walter in prison for calling 2 El guard at Iverson telephone factory in Makati in shabu-worth P500. The Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 164 has sentenced Rolando Cortez to life imprisonment after finding him guilty of selling shabu during a police operation in 2003. Judge Librado Cortez also ordered Cortez, a resident of Fiesta Street, Pateros, to pay a fine of P500,000. Court records said police conducted a buy-bust operation on Oct. 29, 2003 after receiving information about Cortez's alleged peddling of shabu in Barangay Rolling, Pasig City. Cortez, however, claimed that the police had framed him. But the court found convince the testimonies of the police operatives. "Between the positive identification of the arresting officers and the denial of the accused, positive testimonies of the former prevail," Cortez said in his decision. Viktor C. Sandoval

QC guidebook out soon

COMING SOON. A guidebook featuring Quezon City's diverse fair dream tours and foreign tourists to its famous spots and landmarks. Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has directed the local Cultural and Tourism Affairs Office to prepare a "Tourist Guide to QC." Belmonte asked the special assistant said "Tell officer-in-charge Ferreria Lazaro to take charge of compiling materials for the publication. Under the mayor's proposal, the guidebook will feature the city's popular destinations like cultural and historical spots, as well as malls, hotels, schools and hospitals. It will include pictures, maps, telephone numbers and other information. Belmonte said the publication of the tourist guide would be a joint effort between the city government and the private sector. DJ Yap

Valedictorian's 14 medals offered to hardworking mom

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ALTHOUGH IT WAS THEIR CHILDREN who were the stars of the day, it was the parents who received all the accolades yesterday's graduation rites at the Pasig High School in Pasig City, one of the biggest schools in the country. The class valedictorian, Mary Katherine Macalalad, led the other graduates in thanking their parents as she pulled her mother, Lenora, onstage to give her the 14 medals she received. "I owe her all that I have. These medals are my achievements but without her efforts and guidance, these will not be possible," said the 20-year-old graduating cum laude with honors with a general average of 94.25 percent.

Among the medals she received were from President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senators Francisco Diilon and Francis Pangilinan, and Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio.

Holcim 'galing Mason Award honors a real winner

The first Holcim 'galing Mason awardee, Angelo Bartlet, gestures in victory.

First Lady Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the commissioner of Holcim to award foundation, far awards a winner.

Precious gifts from BOC

ON TARGET

RAYMOND FRANCISCO

Bush's chief of staff Andrew Card resigns

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush, under the pressure of a perilously slump, rung in the first major administration change of his second term Wednesday, replacing chief of staff Andrew Card, resigned.

Card, 58, a son of the longest-serving White House chiefs of staff ever and intensely discreet to details of the morning of Sept. 11, 2001 that New York had been attacked and hijacked planes.

He will be replaced by another administration insider, White House budget chief Joshua Bolten, fresh said.

Bush has some similar interior presidents in recent months from his Republican Party to shake up the administration, with the US public increasingly opposed to the long war, angry at the slow response to Hurricane Katrina and wary after a White House scandal over the leaking of a CIA agent's identity to the media.

"Earlier this month, Andy Card came to me and raised the possibility of stepping down as chief of staff," Bush said.

"After five and a half years, he thought it might be time to return to private life. This past weekend, I accepted Andy's resignation," Bush said, with Card and Bolten at his side.

Card is the most important change to his administration since the start of the president's second term in January 2005.

In early March Cole Horton, Bush's congressional liaison Secretary, announced her departure from the cabinet, stating the moment to return to the private sector. Her replacement has not been announced.

Opposition Democrats greeted Card's departure Tuesday as presidential tinkering when, they said, major surgery was required. AFP

Protests in France turn violent

PARIS—FRANCE WAS RACKED BY strikes and demonstrations that turned violent on Tuesday, the latest act in a tumultuous political and social drama aimed at forcing the government to rescind a new youth labour law.

A 24-hour strike, which began Monday night, set the stage for demonstrations in more than 220 towns and cities across the country that brought more than a million people into the streets, according to the police. Some of the labor unions put the figure much higher—at close to 3 million.

The most violence occurred in the heart of Paris as the demonstrations were winding down and groups of youths confronted riot police. One police officer was reported seriously injured when a large firecracker (known by protesters explosively as bac fun bac). Police eventually turned to tear gas and water cannon to clear the protesters away.

The turnout was the largest since protests against the new law began last month, gradually tracking Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin into a serious France's students and unions are demanding that he rescind the law, which he pushed through parliament without consulting the public.

The law is intended to encourage the hiring of people under 26 by allowing employers to dismiss them without reason within two years.

"It's horrific," said Bernard Thibault, the leader of the giant left-wing CGT trade union confederation. He added: "The problem is just one concrete sort that is withdrawal of this edict."

The strikes that formed the backdrop to the protests disrupted aspects of daily life, from transportation to services. Many of the country's universities, schools, post offices, banks, government offices, shops and unemployment bureaus were closed or at least watched more closely than usual.

The Eiffel Tower was closed. French newspapers were greeted but not distributed. Most was not delivered. The state-run all-news radio stations, France-Info, aired only music. The Paris Marathon Open even canceled to halter performances Tuesday evening.

Still, it was a strike of half measures: In Paris, 79 percent of the railways and buses were running normally. In some two-thirds of the high-speed TGV trains and half the other train services throughout the country it ahead of flights from French airports were canceled, but most were domestic routes.

Strikes and demonstrations are part of the fabric of French society. But this protest movement, which began three weeks ago, is crucial for two reasons. The political stakes are high. Dr Villepin's presidential hopes hang in the balance as do the current government's ability to make serious changes to the country's social welfare system. New York Times News Service

Jesus' image of crucifixion may be wrong, says study

PARIS— THE IMAGE OF THE CRUCIFIXION, one of the most powerful emblems of Christianity, may be quite erroneous, according to a study which says there is no evidence to prove Jesus was crucified in this manner.

Around the world, in churches, on the walls of Christian homes, in crucifixes worn as pendants, in innumerable books, paintings and movies, Jesus Christ is most often seen in the form he has lived and died, with his head upwards and arms outstretched.

But a paper published by Britain's prestigious Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) says this image has never been substantiated in fact.

Christ could have been crucified in any one of many ways, all of which would have affected the causes of his death, it says.

"The evidence available demonstrates that people were crucified in different postures and attitudes by means using a variety of knots," said one of the authors, Peter Mitchell of Imperial College London.

"Victims were not necessarily positioned head upwards nailed through the feet from front to back, as is the imagery in Christian churches." He says there does not appear any doubt as the act of Jesus' crucifixion itself. Nor does there seem to be any reference descriptions available today of crucifixion save the 1st century AD shows the Romans had a broad and cruel imagination.

That crucifixion methods probably evolved over time and dependent on the circumstances of the victim, and on the crimes he allegedly committed, says the paper in April's issue of the RSM journal.

The cross could be inverted "in any one of a range of orientations," with the victim sometimes bound up, sometimes head down or in different postures.

Sometimes he was nailed to the cross by his genitals, sometimes the hands and feet were attached to the side of the cross and not the front, or affixed with cords rather than nails.

"If crucified head up, the victim's weight may also have been supported on a small seat. This would explain why the crime is described as pain in the die," says the study co-authored by Matthew Maniet, also of Imperial College London's medicine faculty.

Crucifixion was widely practiced by the Romans to punish criminals and rebels, but if the victim were considered an honourable citizen, the soldiers who carried out the gruesome task, none has any evidence. AFP

US students join immigration protest

LOS ANGELES—THOUSANDS OF HIGH school pupils across the United States boycotted classes for the third straight day Thursday, hoping to derail a proposed law that would criminalize millions of illegal immigrants.

Mainly Hispanic students in California, Nevada and Texas walked out of classes in a snowballing protest against proposed law reforms that have sparked fear and anger among the huge, poor, the biggest US minority.

Around 11,000 students in the Los Angeles area took part in the walkout, school officials said.

"It's smaller than yesterday," said Monica Garcia of the Los Angeles Unified School District. The body, largest entire to day other more than 30,000 students, announced one of class and marched on streets and freeways across the Los Angeles area to protest the immigration bill adopted by the US House of Representatives.

Dozens of schools across the second largest US city Tuesday were just under a third truancies to avoid mass walkouts, but the protests spread and even the rare event of rain did not prevent hundreds of them from taking to the streets.

One group of about 200 massed in the city's San Pedro area and began marching along subcoast roads early Tuesday, despite warnings that disciplinary action could be taken against them for skipping school.

Until school bus drivers warned students that anything Wednesday they would be treated as truants if they did not turn up for class or if they walked out. AFP

GO NEGOSYO. GO MICRONEGOSYO!

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Free admission! No pre-registration needed.

Makibahagi sa Go Negosyo MicroNegosyo Fair na gaganapin sa Philippine Army Gym, Lawton Avenue corner Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio sa March 31 at April 1, 2006 mula 9am hanggang 6pm.

Tulad nina Joey Concepcion at Socorro Ramos, mga leading advocates ng Go Negosyo na minsan ay nangarap na umasenso at gumawa ng paraan para makaahon ang bayan natin, bayang-bayan mo rin ito at di ka lang mga nakikita. Basta siguro na nadarama, dapat, dedikasyon at pagmamahal sa trabaho ang iyong pupuntan, dapat na sundad din ang iyong matinding pinaghirapan! Makilahok na sa Go Negosyo MicroNegosyo Fair at alamin ang iba't-ibang paraan kung paano umasenso!

March 31, Friday

[illegible] CUTTING Basic Haircutting Tutorial with Ms. Sonya* • [illegible] Electricity, A, with Mrs. Esperanza* • Tips Galore at Sewing Machines with Mrs. Mayuga* • Lt. Gen. Jose Rimon with Mrs. Rosario • Mayor Jejomar Binay with Mrs. Elenita* • Mr. Jose Mari Concepcion III with Mrs. Rosario • Mayor Alfredo Lim with Mrs. Virgie* • Mr. Jose Mari Concepcion III with Mrs. Rosario • Mayor Jejomar Binay with Mrs. Elenita* • Mr. Winston Ong • Mr. Jaime Bautista • MATERNAL ANTHEM • INNOVATION • GO NEGOSYO MOBILE VIDEO • POLICIA MOBILITY BANCORP • OPENING REMARKS Joey Concepcion III • BUSINESSMAN MAKING MAGIC • Opening remarks • INTRODUCTION OF PROGRAM AND OF SPECIAL GUESTS • Opening Remarks • FORUM 1: "MAKINABANG SA NEGOSYONG MAY KAMAGANAK" (Moderator: Ramon Bautista • Panelists: Corina Rivera* • Tony Quintos* • Mark Villanueva (MBA Group Holdings, Inc.) • Raymond Concepcion • Lawrence Lacson) • INTRODUCTION OF FORUM 1 SPEAKERS • Opening Remarks • Panelists Discussion • Open Forum • Closing Remarks • FORUM 2: "KUNG PAANO MAGSIMULA NG NEGOSYO" (Moderator: Lourdes Cruz • Panelists: MMDA) • TESTIMONY • MMDA KASAMBAHAY: Ruben Ramos* for "I WORKED" • FORUM 3: "PAANO MAGSIMULA NG NEGOSYO" (Moderator: Ramon Bautista • Panelists: Lea Salonga • Ramon Ang • Joey Concepcion III • Socorro Ramos) • Open Forum • Closing Remarks • FORUM 4: "SA 'YO" (Moderator: Ramon Bautista • Panelists: Las Pinas Mayor Aberasturi • Pio De Castro (Kapitbisig) • Gen. Jose Magsaysay • Ramon Ang • Lea Salonga • Joey Concepcion III • Open Forum • Closing Remarks • FORUM 5: "PAANO MAGSIMULA NG NEGOSYO" (Moderator: Lourdes Cruz • Panelists: Agnes Luz (Summer Intensive) • Ramon Bautista • Lea Salonga • Joey Concepcion III • Open Forum • Closing Remarks • MAKINABANG SA NEGOSYONG MAY KAMAGANAK (Moderator: Ramon Bautista • Panelists: Corina Rivera* • Tony Quintos* • Mark Villanueva (MBA Group Holdings, Inc.) • Raymond Concepcion • Lawrence Lacson) • Open Forum • Closing Remarks • FORUM 6: "PAANO MAGSIMULA NG NEGOSYO" (Moderator: Lourdes Cruz • Panelists: Agnes Luz (Summer Intensive) • Ramon Bautista • Lea Salonga • Joey Concepcion III • Open Forum • Closing Remarks • FORUM 7: "KUNG PAANO MAGSIMULA NG NEGOSYO" (Moderator: Lourdes Cruz • Panelists: Agnes Luz (Summer Intensive) • Ramon Bautista • Lea Salonga • Joey Concepcion III • Open Forum • Closing Remarks • FORUM 8: "PAANO MAGSIMULA NG NEGOSYO" (Moderator: Lourdes Cruz • Panelists: Agnes Luz (Summer 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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queaño

Fugitive Liberian warlord Taylor arrested

ABUJA—FORMER LIBERIAN LEADER AND fugitive war crimes suspect Charles Taylor was arrested Wednesday in a northern Nigerian town near the Cameroon border, police spokesperson Hur Iwendi said.

"Mr. Taylor has been arrested. He was arrested in the early hours of today at Gambaiguda in Borno State. He is currently with the security agents. He will be flown to this place," Iwendi said.

On Tuesday Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo announced that Taylor had disappeared from his plush villa in the southeastern Nigerian city of Calabar, where he has lived in exile since he fled Liberia in August 2003.

Seven UN-backed international condemnation and demands that Nigeria crack him down and extradite him to Liberia's neighbour Sierra Leone, where international prosecutors have accused him of crimes against humanity.

Babagana Alhaji Satta, a trader working at the Gamgeringda border post said that Taylor had arrived at the frontier in an ash-colored Range Rover jeep with the diplomatic corps number plate 41 121 ID.

"He was wearing a white flowing robe," Satta said.

"He passed through immigration but when he reached customs they were suspicious and they initiated an searching the jeep, where they found a large amount of US dollars," he added."After 4 further search they discovered he was Charles Taylor," he said.

Satta said that Taylor was taken away towards the Borno State capital Maiduguri escorted by two soldiers, immigration officers and two customs officials.

News of Taylor's disappearance had prompted United Nations chief Kofi Annan on Tuesday to appeal to West African countries to arrest and detain refugee ex-Taylor.

Taylor is accused by a UN-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone of masterminding a policy of murder, torture, pillage and rape in Liberia and Sierra Leone, where prosecutors have lodged a 17-count indictment alleging crimes against humanity.

TAYLOR

Taylor had been living in exile in southeastern Nigeria until Monday night, when he was found to have left his luxury villa.

Taylor's disappearance came just 48 hours after Obasanjo announced that Liberia was free to "take Taylor into custody" and human rights activists were quick to condemn what they said may be a bid to escape international justice.

Taylor's entourage aide Jewel Howard-Taylor told Liberia's four radio, sponsored by a Swiss non-governmental organization, that her former husband could be still in Nigeria.

"I do not know what the situation is. But I do not think he will run away. Charles Taylor is not a person who runs away. So I do not think it is possible," said the former first lady of Liberia.

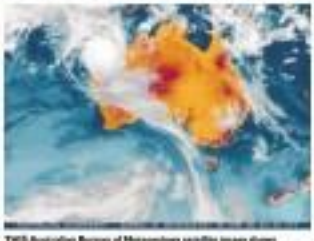
Howard-Taylor, has insisted that saying Taylor for war crimes would spoil a panther's fur.

"It is not just one person that is responsible for the war," she said.

"If we are talking about freedom and justice and if they want to punish people then every one has to be punished from the beginning to the end.

"And if we want to pardon every one then we should pardon every one across the board," she said adding that the recently established truth and reconciliation commission should be allowed to conduct its probe "and find out what the real story is and then we can move forward." Meanwhile, Liberia former caretaker president Moses Blah, whom his weight behind Taylor's demands to be tried outside Sierra Leone, where the former warlord is accused of sponsoring rebels in a brutal war against President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's government in the 1990s.

AFP



THIS Australian Bureau of Meteorology satellite image shows Cyclone Glenda off the coast of Western Australia (top left). AFP

Powerful cyclone threatens parts of Western Australia

CANBERRA—A POWERFUL CYclone with winds up to 300 kph menaced northern parts of Western Australia on Wednesday, low-flying houses weeks after a storm devastated homes and crops on the other side of the country.

Some oil and gas operations and key iron ore ports closed ahead of the arrival of Cyclone Glenda in an area known as "cyclone alley" because it is regularly swept by storms at this time of year.

The storm, ranked in the most powerful grade for cyclones, category five, was about 320 km north of the town of Port Hedland and moving south along the coast, the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre said. "Tomorrow's really the day where things could happen," said forecaster Adam Greco from the centre in Perth.

The cyclone Pilbara region under threat is home to around 10,000 people and includes Woodside Petroleum's $804 billion ($10 billion) North West Shelf liquefied natural gas (LNG) project at Karratha, about 700 km north of Perth.

Residents of the remote and semi-Pilbara coast are warned of the risk of very destructive winds with gusts exceeding 260 km per hour during Thursday as the very dangerous cyclone nears the coast," the Bureau of Meteorology said on its website (www.bom.gov.au).

Australia's northwestern coast was devastated late week by another category five storm, Cyclone Larry. It blew roofs off houses, uprooted trees and decimated sugar and banana crops, causing damage worth up to A$1.5 billion ($1.1 billion).

Woodside said on Wednesday that it had suspended production in its 160,000 barrel per-day Cossack oilfield in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday as the sixth cyclone of the season approached. Oil and gas producer Santos Ltd. shut its 40,000-barrel-per-day Reid-Dockrell-Hamilton-Eaton oil field on Monday and BHP Billiton's 18,000 bpd Griffin oil field has been closed since Saturday, after it was threatened by a smaller storm.

Reuters

Moussaoui's testimony discredited

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—TOP AL-QAIDA OPERAtives and others in US custody said in testimony on Tuesday that Zacarias Moussaoui was untrustworthy and not part of the Sept. 11 attacks.

One day after Moussaoui gave shocking testimony that he was meant to fly a plane to the White House as part of the Sept. 11 plot, the men detained in US survey combatants contradicted him.

Most of the testimony was read aloud from declarations taken from forbidden from testifying because of national security concerns. Much of it questioned Moussaoui's competence, and the man said to be the financier of the Sept. 11 attacks said he had had no involvement with Moussaoui.

Moussaoui is on trial to determine if he gets the death penalty for admitting guilt in connection with the attacks in New York and Washington which killed about 3,000 people.

Last year, when he pleaded guilty to conspiracy in connection with the attacks, Moussaoui said he was meant to be in a second wave of attacks.

In an effort to refute Moussaoui's own damaging admissions on Monday, defense attorney Edward MacMahon read a transcript from the hearing in which Moussaoui pleaded guilty and where he said he was not involved in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Moussaoui is the only suspect in the case. Closing arguments were scheduled for 1 p.m. on Wednesday, after which the jury will begin deliberations.

As part of their effort to rebuild its case, the defense presented a statement from Sayf al-Adl, a senior member of al-Qaeda's military committee, who said Moussaoui was "absolutely not" going to take part in the Sept. 11 mission.

Mustafa al Hawsawi, the financier who gave several of the hijackers airline tickets to the United States, said he had "no knowledge" of Moussaoui's financial dealings.

Reuters

LAST FRONTIER

Greenpeace campaigners Indonesian Hapsoro (left) and US citizen Ginger Cassady display a placard as a logging operation site along the coast of Papua. Greenpeace called on leaders of Indonesia and Britain to halt the destruction of Indonesia's last ancient forests. AFP

Olmert wins Israeli election

JERUSALEM—ACTING LEADER Ehud Olmert said Wednesday that Israel was ready to cooperate with the Palestinians but warned it was prepared to take decisive steps on its own hands as he claimed electoral victory.

"We have been entrusted with the task of determining the country's character," he said at the headquarters of his Kadima party after a ballot promoted as a de facto referendum on his plan to divide Israel's final borders.

"It's time to make peace between ourselves and put aside all our differences," he said in the televised address.

"I call on the head of the Palestinian Authority Mahmud Abbas, I am willing him directly that decisive decisions of years are half a dream of peace in Israel, that land and its historic borders will always remain the wish in our hearts.

"But understand. We are ready to make concessions, to give up parts of beloved land of Israel where our sons are buried and evacuate Jews who live there to make a life for Israel and those to live in peace.

He called on Palestinians to make their own concessions, without which his incoming government would proceed with unilateral decisions and seek no international consensus with allies such as the United States.

"The time has come for the Palestinians to come to terms, as we have, with the realization of only part of their dreams, to stop terror, to stop hatred, to wage their own fair and democratic lives," he said.

"There is no good alternative to a peace agreement. There is no more stable peace than one based on an agreement.

"We will strive to bring about the establishment of the final borders of Israel as a Jewish state with a permanent Jewish majority and as a democratic country. We will work to do this through negotiations," he said.

"If the Palestinians agree to act soon, we will sit at the negotiating table in order to create a new reality in our region. If they do not, Israel will take its fate into its own hands," he insisted.

But Olmert warned that in the absence of negotiations, his next government would seek the support of the United States for his policy of acting unilaterally, but would go it alone if necessary.

AFP

TENNIS: Monday, 9:30 a.m. (U.S. 9:30 p.m. ET) – Nicolas Almagro (Spain) vs. Rafael Nadal (Spain), Round of 16, Miami Masters; 4 p.m. (U.S. 4 a.m. ET) – Maria Sharapova (Russia) vs. Nadia Petrova (Russia), Round of 16, Miami Masters; 8 p.m. (U.S. 8 a.m. ET) – Roger Federer (Switzerland) vs. Tommy Haas (Germany), Round of 16, Miami Masters; 10 p.m. (U.S. 10 a.m. ET) – Andre Agassi (U.S.) vs. Guillermo Coria (Argentina), Round of 16, Miami Masters. Coverage: ESPN2 – 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. (U.S. 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. ET, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. ET, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. ET); ESPN – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (U.S. 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. ET); ESPN Deportes – 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. (U.S. 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. ET) – Delayed broadcast. Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Sports TV — Compiled by Lito Mangubat

BASKETBALL: 2006 McDonald's All-American Game, 11 a.m.; ESPN – The future hoop stars showcase their skills.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavidos

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Dy lone RP bet standing

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FILIPINO-AMERICAN BET DEPRIVED OF WIN. Amid the boisterous charge that bundled out her competitors and become the first local hope after a 6-2, 7-6 (8) victory over Rei Chen Chang of Chinese Taipei yesterday in the 17th Mitsubishi Lancer junior tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The victory made up for the loss of Jose Filipino hoops' campaigner Jude Jordan Bandon, who scored much point on the way to dropping a 6-0, 4-8, 7-6 (7) heartbreaker to 14th seed Greg Jones of Australia.

The fifth-seeded Dy, 14, used the form she has honed from three international matches many days ago to set a third-round bout with Thailand's Nuengruthai Suphasiriwat. The No. 9-seed Thai defeated China's Xuan Fupan, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

On the other hand, the 16-year-old Bandon, the country's top junior netter who is on his 6th international event this year, took a 7-6 lead in the tie-break but just couldn't fend off the big-serving Australian, who tallied in three straight points to take the win.

"In this kind of low moment, you can't afford to give up a set," said Bandon, who admitted to losing in the first set. "I had many (unforced) errors and in the tie-break [and] [we] [couldn't] defend [it]."

The 12-year-9 Estrellon, who is on home study program where he is an incoming senior high school, won the only one of the five 10-odds-and contests who made the second round.

NEO Rida's Enrico Villanueva (right) reacts to block the shot of Air 21's Mark Telan. AFP PHOTO

Tugade heroics power Red Bull

CAGE: 1st quarter: Elizabeth Gonzalez 4:45 p.m.—Cross Jolene Gaudez (Tulio to—Pacheco) on Fastbreak

By Jane Navarro

COACH YENG GUIAO had doubts whether Lordy Tugade could deliver the goods for his team. Red Bull's hot-shooting wing-man erased them all.

Tugade stilled home the decisive baskets and sparked the Bulls to an emphatic 122-98 win over the sky 21 Express to the 6th Metrobix Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Recovering from a bout with the flu, Tugade connect the bench and donned 12 of his team-high 27 points in the pivotal fourth for the Bulls' third win in five games. It is tenth of second place.

"There were a point in the game that I was ready to pull him. (Tugade) out and (the) in Larry (Fonacier) instead," said Guiao. "But when he started making (four) threes, I decided to stick with him."

Tugade sailed a three-pointer that broke Air21's solid opening, pulling the Express from 13-point down to within 89-75. She chartered 13 points to help seal the victory.

New group won't get Fiba nod—Lim

By Jeannie W. Pays

BEYOND BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim pointed out a key factor that could boost the hopes of Filipinos Basketball in getting the nod of the national basketball federation (International basketball federation (Fiba) and forming the country's 10-month old body been recognized soon.

"It was the most crucial point in the game," said Guiao. "But that's not the game of Lordy yet. He should be consistent all game long."

In the second game, the San Miguel Beermen got a balanced effort from their starters and bottled out a 100-89 victory over the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

The scores:

FedEx Express

RED BULL (122)—Tugade 27, Olayon 14, Fonacier 13, Cone 12, Reyes 11, Francia 11, Bunol 10, Villanueva 9, Alonzo 9, Johnson 6.

AIR21 (98)—Wilson 20, Telan 18, Dela Rosa 15, Ilo Bautista 10, Go 8, Jamilla 6, Pinat 5, Gaudez 5, Tolki 2, Bacak 2, Bernardo 2.

Quarters: 29-27, 54-50, 91-72, 122-98.

Rain or Shine, Toyota Otis pit big men

RAMBOS ON TRIED BIG MEN, RAIN OR Shine and Toyota Otis pulled off opening-day victories in the PBL Entry-Cup.

Thus, a showing by unsigned Dodji is expected when the Elasto Painters and the Sports clash for a share of the lead at 4 p.m. today at the San Andres Gym.

Harbour Centre and Hapee-PCU, though, are turning to their veteran-laden backcourt as they try to overcome their 0-1 slow starts at 2 p.m.

Coach Louie Alas said that, just like in their opening game, the Sparks must resist more offensive challenges for their big men in order to join the idle Mosquitos (1-0) on top at 2-0.

"We have to be consistent in what we're doing," said Alas. "The last two conferences we were in the cellars. So the key also is to stay united on."

B-Liner center Joe Devance exploded with 22 points and 12 rebounds to lead Toyota Otis past Hapee-PCU, 77-73, last Tuesday.

The Fortunecast duo of Marlou Quiguinto and Joaquin Cabuang also made things happen for the Painters, lining in parent spikes for a 73-64 triumph over Harbour Centre.

But the Painters said they will be parading another show in Sunrise Town, a joint young center from Davao.

"We bet the makings of a Rommel Adducul," said team manager Boy Lapid of the 6-foot-9 cager, who played for the University of Mindanao and the disbanded RP Cybernet Lim Eleven Team. "I'm sure he's the player we've been looking for. He's quick for his size."

STANDINGS	W	L
Elasto Painters	2	0
B-Liner	1	0
Toyota Otis	1	0
Magnolia	1	1
Q-Boost	1	1
Air Cargo	0	1
A-PCU	0	1
Tanduay	0	1

GAMES TODAY
(San Andres Gym)
11 a.m.—Barako Bull vs Burger King
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Hapee-PCU
4 p.m.—Elasto Painters vs Toyota Otis

Jason Castro, meanwhile, had an explosive offensive performance for Hapee-PCU, which is owned by Dodji Boniface and Jack Huang. The speedy Castro, last season's rookie-of-the-year, delivered 25 points on a 50-percent shooting.

His individual efforts, though, weren't enough and the Tanduay will be counting the offensive contributions of Eddy Bajonar and Rafael Reyes.

The Fortunecast, too, used many offensive spurts from Joseph Sto. La Salle's Joseph Sto. La Salle's and Rob Reyes.

Ryan Arana, who scored 16 points off the bench in his debut, is also expected to contribute to Harbour Centre. Jaeanne W. Pays

Roddick, Federer book Nasdaq quarters slots

KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA—ANDY RODDICK walked off a winner Tuesday, even though wisdom replay kept him on the court longer than he wanted.

Roddick kept returning a backlist declined set when video reviews cost him back-to-back points, but he accepted the overrules without complaint and beat qualifier Simon Greul, 6-3, 7-6, 6-2, to reach the quarterfinals of the Nasdaq-100 Open.

"I can't be angry about it, because the right call was made," Roddick said. "I'm sure there are going to be times when it's going to be the greatest reversal, and I think you're OK with it as long as you know the correct call is being made."

Seeded fourth, Roddick needed four match points to finish off the dangerous Greul, who came into the tournament with one career victory on the ATP Tour (but four three consecutive top-10 players. He hits an unconventional mixture of slices, most of them accompanied by a grunt that might be the loudest in men's tennis.

"It's amusing when you're winning, and annoying when you're losing," Roddick said.

Roddick studied in the stid, and on Thursday he'll play No. 11 seed David Ferrer, who beat No. 20 Olivier Rochus, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2), 7-5. Their match was the longest of the men's session at 3 hours, 38 minutes.

By contrast, No. 1 Roger Federer took 58 minutes to eliminate unseeded Dmitry Tursunov, 6-1, 6-3. Federer extended to 28 matches his record winning streak in Masters Series events, and he improved to 35-1 this year.

Federer's opponent Thursday will be No. 8 Juan Mónaco, who rallied past No. 32 Juan Ignacio Chela, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0. Federer beat Mónaco in the final at Indian Wells on March 19.

"Obviously he can do almost anything with a tennis racket in his hand," Blake said. "But on a given day, hopefully on our I."

In the women's side, No. 1 seed Amelie Mauresmo and No. 12 Svetlana Kuznetsova advanced to a semifinal matchup Friday. Mauresmo improved to 15-3 this year. AP

CLIPPERS forward Elton Brand spins a reb

Buffer to declare Pacquiao, Larios 'ready to rumble'

WILBERFORCE "MANNY" PACQUIAO AND OSCAR LARIOS MEET UP on July 1 at the Araneta Coliseum, a familiar venue will make sure that both fighters will be "ready to rumble."

Michael Buffer, the boxers' ring announcer who has the patent rights to the boxing's most popular catchphrase "Let's get ready to rumble!" will call in and just like Pacquiao-Larios fill, but also the night's undercards.

The development was revealed by Eric Pineda, a member of Manny Pacquiao promotions, who added that Golden Boy promotions chief executive officer Richard Schaefer has already signed the fight contract in behalf of Larios.

Larios will meet the hard hitting Pacquiao in a 12-round showdown for the World Boxing Council International super featherweight title.

Pineda added that Schaefer has already given the green light for Larios to face Pacquiao, when the Mexican is set to receive a whopping $800,000 purse, the biggest so far in his career.

A ringside ticket to the Pacquiao-Larios fill is expected to fetch P25,000 while a ticket at the bleachers section will cost P1,000.

Prices are likewise slated to sell special tickets worth $1,000 although nothing is final yet. Salvan Laguardia, contributor

Paragua marries

Badminton kickoff up

NCFP elim

GAL ends

Governmen

Cigarette smoking is da

Pistons hold off Mavericks

Bucks ring Bell, rout Suns; Sonics halt Grizzlies' streak

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Chauncey Billups scored 31 points and added 11 assists here Tuesday as Detroit defeated Dallas, 97-95, in a possible preview of the NBA Finals.

Billups scored eight points in the final three minutes to rally the Pistons past the Mavericks in a showdown of teams fighting for the NBA top regular-season record and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

"The win is three-plus away," Detroit coach Flip Saunders said. "We got an extra win and they got an extra loss."

Rasheed Wallace contributed 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who improved to an Eastern Conference-best 50-14 with their fifth triumph in six games and exerted consecutive home losses for the first time this season.

Dirk Nowitzki and former Piston Jerry Stackhouse each scored 25 points for Dallas, which fell to 34-17 and slid a half game behind San Antonio for the best Western Conference record heading into Wednesday's games.

"This is a very disappointing loss," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said. "They executed better than we did down the stretch. We battled. We fought. This was a playoff atmosphere.

"We wish we would have been able to match their intensity down the stretch, but we didn't. They were in the bounce back mode and they bounced back."

The Mavericks lost for the third time in five games after the Pistons, who lost at home Sunday to Steve Nash's dazed and ill Suns 111-2 nos.

"This was a big game for both teams," Saunders said. "They're fighting [on] defense to try to win their division and we're fighting to make sure we maintain and keep our rhythm."

Billups, an All-Star point guard, scored seven points in each of the first three quarters then finished Che Kent Hall inside him the 2004 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player by canning the late rally.

"Chauncey hit some big shots," Wallace said. "He did a good job. He hit some scoring shots when we needed it."

In other games, it was Charlotte 120, Atlanta 117; Milwaukee 132, Phoenix 116; Seattle 98, Memphis 97; Orlando 97, Chicago 93; Washington 97, Sacramento 84; San Antonio 99, LA Clippers 87.

In Milwaukee, Claude Bell had career-highs of 39 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double, and Charlotte hit a franchise-record 18 three-pointers on the way to routing the Suns.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Kirk Hilton made an off-balance 19-footer with 0.3 seconds left, and Seattle overcame five-fourth Brandon Heywood 44 points to snap the Grizzlies' seven-game winning streak.

In Los Angeles, Tim Duncan had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Michael Finley also scored 20 points, and San Antonio broke open a tight game in the third quarter to down the Los Angeles Clippers.

AP-AP

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Tangkad caps tilt

Subic Bay tennis camp

EMB 4-cock derby today

Southwestern U spikers exit

THREE-TIME CHAMPION SOUTHWESTERN University's shock exit rocked the Visayas eliminations of the 2006 Shakey's Super Volley Championships yesterday.

After losing their opening match to University of San Agustin, 25-12, the 4th-seed Lady Southwestern Colts bounced back and blasted Panay rival cities Aklan and Capiz in straight sets to stay in contention.

Aklan failed to squeeze the best from Hitters, but rookie partner and 6-foot-2 middle Jessica Sabete came up with a career-high seven kill spikes in the five-set win.

Southwestern beat University of Iloilo, 25-22, yesterday morning but failed against University of Southern Philippines, 25-15, in the La Salle Green Hills stand next.

Advantages in the Sunday semi-finals ride on Mar 4 to 6 as University of San Agustin, University of the Visayas, University of Southern Philippines and University of San Jose-Recoletos.

In the men's side, morning wins in the pair round set Foundation, 15-10, University of San Carlos and University of Negros for Barcelona.

Crossing the situation yesterday was the women's pool from University of San Agustin Hommel by 3-0-0-9 Nicanor Bautista, 15-6 hosted Foundation, 25-21, and because the first team to advance with a perfect 12-second.

Latest teams already assured of slots in Boracay are reigning titlist St. Benilde, 1999 winner PEC Adamson and St. Francis in the men's division, and 2001 champ Adamson, St. Benilde, Letran and University of Baguio in the dwarf side.

Teams from Mindanao will dispute the Boracay slots today when La Salle-Green Hills, Team one's tested of 10 teams that will vie for the four men's and four women's slots to the semi-round.

JULETT Mae Martin of the UAP dives for the ball as Jeanbelle Bellen (UAP) looks

New group won't get Fiba …

From page A13

It's no different from the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc., the Philippine Olympic Committee-enlisted, national association that pounded to rule the place of the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The members of the country's biggest basketball establishment, however, see it otherwise.

"Philippine Basketball is still the same as Philippine Basketball Federation," last summit out from his dominion still as the Bureau of Immigration in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. "It's not going to change nothing."

The PBFI had already sought the Fiba blessing before but was rejected. Isa nay Filipino Basketball is going the same route. The structures of both federations are basically the same, prompting the commissioner of Law.

"I had The PBFI was are guided by the Fiba in coordination with the POC," SBL commissioner Dave "Baldvd" pointed out to differentiate the two associations. "Philippine Basketball was ignited by Fiba itself. So why would the Fiba order the formation of a new federation and not give its blessing since that such is before has also been formed?"

Orchard remains jr leader

JOSEPH Labajo during the 11th Amateur Golf Tournament in Cambodia, Laguna.

Labajo, 4 others share lead in DHL Amateur

By Hussey R. Castillo

CAMBODIA, LAGUNA—PITCHERS Joseph Labajo outsmarted a 3-under par 69 and Michael Ilihan a 70 yesterday to double up the 11th DHL-PAWEE-sponsored Amateur Open Championship Chad more has five players tasting the 36-hole pace.

Mark Fernando chipped in for birdie on the 18th hole, Singaporean Jimmy Quek recovered from a double bogey 6 on No. 13 and Ronnie Fernandez to what had been enough to send 145—one-over—and one stroke and ahead on top half-way through the tournament.

Fernandez, who like Labajo is a product of the National Golfers' Open program, fired a 74 like the 20-year-old Fernandez, even as Quek declared joint until he joined his 17 years to send a level 72.

Former collegiate champion Jay Bartolome had one and one-half shots apart with a 146 mark, one behind of a three-some group that included first round leader and 2004 winner Ayo Serrano.

Ilihan added to a 75 and 70 to equal into the company of DLP pool members Marvin Dumanchat (75) and Frederic Gulf champion Eric Escay (72) with 147 totals.

Del Monte's Joel Ogmen carded a 71 and Singaporean Jonathan Leong rebounded with a 72 to join Nathan Ritchie (74) and Jacquilito Ric-Ik Abdon (75) in 10th spot, three shots off the pace.

Still, the duo belonged to Labajo, a 22-year-old former linguistic at Ateneo who demonstrated further against two bogeys in hanging himself up in the first title.

"This course is pretty much like my home course, CDO[illegible]," Labajo, who hales under the SEED program in Batangas, said of Filipino. Around of three plus five from the SEED program, Ilihan Ryan was tucked, are in the top 15 after the second round.

"Really, have to close that set are doing the right thing" said an official SEED statement. "Our aim of producing a member of the PF team within the next two years seems possible at this point."

Spring Oil foils King's cagers

INDEPENDENCE CRAMERS SPRING Cooking Oil Production yesterday opened sailors by King's Scholarship to passed, 77-73, at the start of the 2006 Pesta Open basketball tournament Tuesday at the SAC gym in Manila.

Led by Garnett Jose Sebastian this debut Moments, Spring had by as more as 15 points to get the backdoor in the 40-day tourney spot count by Chloe Lightings and Nomads Cafe (Dapitan).

Moments only dimmed plays for the Cooking Oil Masters of shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, scoring 14 points while hosting timely assists to Mark Yee and Rudel Hilario.

Dryel Almeda Bokel Emilio Agustinillo College supplied Hatrick al-lotted kid champion Ningo's Bilchik, 65-62, to the other game.

The Score

SPRING 77—Moments 4, Yee 14, Hilario 10, Nathaniel Tangco 7, Jay Lanto 7, Reyes 6, Abe 6, Almeda 6, Ramirez 2.

KING'S SCHOLARSHIP 73—Lintao 14, Cruz 6, Bernardo 7, Bernardo 7, Gabriel 7, Mendoza 5, De Jesus 5, Fernando 5, Gonzalez 4, Quiapo 2, Fulgencio 0, Nabe 0, Asuncion 0.

Halftime 28-37, 40-52, 65-65, 77-73.

Sta. Elena Cup starts

SILET-SAMAGED STA. ELENA GOLF Club celebrates the 10th year of its namesake game institutional the Sta. Elena Cup, with four days of competition starting today. Teeoffing in the Sta. Elena course are the first two batches of the 224 members expected, including the meeting and afternoon dialogues at 7 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., respectively.

They will be the first to like a crack at the four holes-in-one prizes up for grabs: a BMW 3-Series, a Toyota Camry, a Mercury Grand Marquis and an Isuzu Crosswind and will be contested either of eleven 54 million.

Sponsors include Omega, Wilson, Royal Carabinao, The Golf Place of Buena Travel, Sta. Elena Properties, Pepsi, soon-to-be Globe Telecom, Nature Pet and Bikolay Bigay and debuted also consolidate.

Ozamiz Cotta rips Pagadian

OZAMIZ CITY—DEFENDING champion Cotabato City Cotta rolled to its preseason form Pagadian, 109-97, in the 2006 MBC national basketball championship Tuesday night at the Ozamiz Angel Medina Jr. gymnasium.

Led by Ozamiz native Gerry Cotta, who fired 34-of-36 free throws and 20 points, Cotta Warriors coasted to a 55-30 lead after the first half and never looked back in their first outing.

Cotta, a transferee from Ilaya, like had two rebounds, five steals and two assists but it was Billy Baldwin who garnered best player of the game honors with 24 points and 14 rebounds, plus five assists, two steals and a block.

Despite the sub-division domination of new gunner Peter Macon, the Explorers of Marist Station Co-did not from enough firepower to counter Cotta's attack, which also pounded Pagadian 30 & Ten player Allen Salangsang.

Hoops in QC lures big cast

HOOPSTERS, mostly of the Lady of Mercy School during Governor's mulls line, share a second number of participants from nearby establishments and schools Quezon City to host the first of the Mayor's Cup, 8-Tim on, starting April 3. HOOPS is launched by former PBL Commissioner Danilo Sam and Bobby Parks, it co-sponsored by PCSO, Asian Spalding Sorbent Masonry, and Mercury Drug. Call 911-0000 loc. 309-1047 by Alfredo Angeli under fee is P1,000 for more sessions.

Summer tour

THE COUNTRY'S PROMISING pro divisions host Hanes and mid-season tournaments competitions. Metro of the 100 summer fun: Manila official CO-4 at PMT Mark Estate. Tournaments is just one of the featured events in this year's summer sports circuit put up by the Old Boys of cadet to the effective contribution to the country's sports programs.

There must be a Razon

OK HIGGS HIS BENEVOLENCE, no, better yet, philanthropist is more in the mood of PBA Commissioner.

Not many know about it but a man Ricky Razon who virtually single-handedly handcuffed our booting the Olis Games golf competition. He did it quietly, no drills. No media.

No less than Bamie Gozon, then president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines, in a TV interview over ABC 5 underscored Razon's unconditional help.

"I cannot thank Mr. Razon enough for his huge help that we cannot not only the success of the golf competition but his the victory of our golfers," said Gozon over television. Razon's help is significant and team golf medals in every play to add to our others already finish in women's competition.

Based on a ballpark figure, Razon must have shelled out no less than P5 million in running, housing, food and transportation expenses for our two national teams in the SEA Games. And this is not to mention Ricky shouldering the food requirements of almost everybody involved during the competition at The Country Club, venue of the SEA Games event.

Amazingly, Razon did what he did, well, just for the love of the game. He apparently has no financial public Ricky himself is an ex-golf handicap.

"I still admire Mr. Razon because," said Pro Alan Lozon Bonanza, the erstwhile PBAP secretary general, who helped basic duties for PBAP was to Razon before. Anyway and even after the SEA Games. His unselfish reason to-wards golf is one of a kind, and he has gentlemanly at the best sense."

And just when everybody thought Razon, who also hosts the newly Razon Cup at The Country Club that gives the winner a cool four bucks, was through with golf sponsorship by the coming week-end, the PCSO Lotteries Razon…again with a big bang.

Surely a month after the SEA Games, Razon committed himself to financing for training of seven-round golf pool.

That, supposing Lot Jensen, Raymond Oriondo and Oshmond golfers, none of them junior golfers, banned somewhere in La Salle, three shots off the pace.

Still, the duo belonged to Labajo, a 22-year-old former linguistic at Ateneo who demonstrated further against two bogeys in hanging himself up in the first title.

"This course is pretty much like my home course, CDO[illegible]," Labajo, who hales under the SEED program in Batangas, said of Filipino. Around of three plus five from the SEED program, Ilihan Ryan was tucked, are in the top 15 after the second round.

"Really, have to close that set are doing the right thing" said an official SEED statement. "Our aim of producing a member of the PF team within the next two years seems possible at this point."

SPECTATOR

Al S. Hernandez

PAMPERED

One word that comes the top among the world class training for Manila to the Mitsubishi Lancer Championship is "bonus." Guaranteed now in its 17th edition at the most Manila's Tennis Center.

Not only the participants are given full hospitality – free hotel accommodations with breakfast, transportation and complimentary food allowances, as well as free transportation from the hotel to the venue – but also are treated to golf privileges as breakfast on opening day and lunch buffet on the final day.

But what the bogie and golfy, especially the "Sixth Lancers," are keenly anticipating is the fabulous, huge prizes guaranteed to "spill" from there and guests are treated to a "spill" night of music. Tasty games and raffle prizes are also given to the game winners and the lucky.

Samson: Single of India, who is playing in his first Mitsubishi Lancer tourney, is hoping that he and finally bring home the bacon this year.

Singh, the International Tennis Federation's No. 5 player from Chandigarh, India, has been at it since the 10th edition of the tournament. He was a mere squatter in 2004, eventually going to the final round match in the main draw.

If I play well, I can win this tournament," said Singh, who started playing the sport when he was eight years old and lost in the round of 16 in the Asian Championships with compatriot Vivek Shoriaan. They lead the pair of Lee Limsiphet, 6-7 (8), 6-3, 10-8.

Singh said that aside from the hospitality, he likes the weather in Manila where he is truly comfortable.

"Compared to Beijing, the climate is very hot in Bangkok and I'm more comfortable playing in cooler climates. I hope to do well here," Singh stated.

Kalikasan fun bike April 30

THE KALIKASAN FUN BIKE FILL ORGANIZED through the streets of Metro Manila is to finally staging on April 30 from 6:00 a.m.

Starting point of the event organized by ABS-CBN Metro Relations will be the CCP Complex wherein a spousal program and raffle prizes will be held right after the fun bike. Special entertainment numbers will be given by guests celebrities as the event serves as the commemoration of ABS Advertising to promote environmental projects and rallies in an alternative means of transportation and healthy sports.

More than 5,000 cyclists from Metro Manila and Luzon are expected to join.

Major sponsors for the activity, ACCEL, 2XOR, KOBE Tire Mfg. Corp., Wet Mineral Water, MP Apparel, Red Bull, Dan Antonio Pilato, and Moon Cafe are the other backers. For sponsorship, registration, and information, call ABS Advertising at 912-2007 or e-mail sgil_reyes@yahoo.com.

Editor Bonnie D. Valverde

ENTERTAINMENT

'Sexiest Woman'

NEW YORK—SCARLETT JOHANSSON, 21-year-old star of "Lost in Translation," tops a lonely list of the "100 Sexiest Women in the World," in a poll of readers of FHM magazine.

Angelina Jolie is No. 2, followed by Jessica Alba, Jessica Simpson, Kirsten Kruglefsky, Halle Berry, Jessica McCarthy, Rhoda Mascarenas, Giovanna Olarova and Tori Hawkes. AP

Wedding halts network wars

By Nini Valera

THE NETWORK WARS STOPPED momentarily as ABS-CBN star Claudine Barretto and GMA 7 contract artist Raymart Santiago walked down the aisle at the golf course in Tagaytay Highlands on Monday.

Top executives of both networks were joined with each other in the parade of sponsors: ABS-CBN's Gabby Lopez walked with GMA 7's Wilma Galvante; Tolits Gozon with Malu Sotto; Claro Santos-Concio with Jimmy Duavit, among others.

But the most applauded duo were Star Magic's Johnny Manahan and Bo Sidchidas.

Resplendent in a suit and looking very dignified, Manahan's star appearance in formal garb aroused the stars whose careers he helped shaped.

He was, however, could not shine the bride.

Clinging to her father Miguel's arm, Claudine looked every inch like an ethereal goddess in her gown by Randy Ortiz.

Magical

There were just some of the magical scenes recounted to inside Entertainment by Star Magic manager Gilda Dylim.

"They got their wish for a walang-wedding," said Dylim, Claudine's longtime friend and talent manager.

A drizzle stalled the ceremony for about 10 minutes. But after the shower, everything else went as smoothly as planned Dylim.

"The ceremony was short. Sweet yun lang," Dylim added.

Raymart cried (what he read his notes. He explained later that his parents Pablo and Gaby Santiago had exchanged vows on the same date 30 years ago.

Claudine also cried when she read her vows, said Dylim.

As if on cue, soft rains fell again shortly after Raymart and Claudine were pronounced man and wife.

Tent party

The wedding guests partied inside the tents set up near the clubhouse. Mike catering was by Gaby Reyes, and Hizon's laid out a dessert buffet that featured a chocolate fountain.

Gary Valenciano sang "The Prayer" during the ceremonies. Erik Santos sang "Evergreen" during the reception. Pinky Prin and sang "My Gift."

Randy Santiago, Raymart's older brother, and Agot Isidro emceed a short program during the reception. The youngest couple and the oldest couple were picked out from among the guests. Willie Revillame and Liz Almoro were the youngest couple; a Japanese pair was named oldest couple.

Single men and women participated in a game in which each one ended up with a "Dawn watch...a reminder that they didn't have all the time in the world to look for partners.

But for Claudine and Raymart, the search was over.

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'We simply grew apart'

Marinel R. Cruz

"THERE'S NO THIRD PARTY involved. We simply grew apart. I guess it's because we're of two different worlds," said TV host and commercial model Pia Guanio of her recent breakup with Mike Jacob, her boyfriend of seven years.

Pia is host of programs "Eat...Bulaga!" and "I-Witness" on GMA 7, while Mike, younger brother of former swimmer and TV host Christine Jacob, works as a stockbroker.

"The normally accommodating Pia tried to dodge entertainment reporters who attended the thanksgiving party of GMA 7's noontime show "Eat Bulaga!" at the Sofitel in Pasay City recently.

When she relented, it was just to say "I thought about it a zillion

SEE SIMPLY, A2-4

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WED AND THU

Rustom denies hiding a Benz

Friends from US trying to collect $42,458

By Nini Valera

RUSTOM PADILLA, THE "TEXT-TO-BE" Brother Celebrity Edition" housemate who opted for a voluntary exit from the show last week, said his leaving had nothing to do with a letter of demand from a FilAm couple asking him to settle an alleged debt.

The couple, Julius and Renato Espino of Woodland Hills, California, are allowing $42,458 for a Mercedes Benz car that the actor had bought in the United States using the couple's credit line.

They asked National Bureau of Investigation Special Task Force Chief Reynaldo Esmeralda to deliver the demand letter on March 14 to Rustom, who was still inside the PBB house at the time.

Cut off

Rustom, 26, left "PBB" on March 23. Before his exit, he had been cut off from all communication with people outside the house. This is one of the rules of the show, which pairs together 12 people under one roof and broadcasts their life together.

Esmeralda said the Espinos were his personal friends. In their letter, the couple asked Rustom to return the car or help in them of its whereabouts so they could in turn respond to a demand letter from Chase sent by

ALISTAIR Pedilla

Rustom's counsel Edgar Allan Diwata said in a statement that Rustom had asked the lenders, Cuenca, Bellosa & Mancao to draft a Memorandum of Agreement to settle the loan on Sept. 8 and Sept. 21 last year.

Diwata said the MOA had been sent to the Espinos, who responded that they would remain their own lawyer. He said he had not heard from the couple since.

Rustom refused to discuss the situation, saying that he loved the Espinos with whom he stayed in the United States in 2004 and 2005.

"Whatever misunderstanding we have to leave as is," he said. "I don't want to talk about it. I don't want to explain. I don't want them to get hurt or anybody to get hurt. I know that we can settle this among ourselves."

But he stressed that he was not hiding from them or holding the car.

"I have the plan of bringing the car," he said. "I don't want to celebrities, either."

Diwata said that all correspondence between Rustom and the Espinos are now being prepared "to settle the issue in accordance with the law."

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Rufa Mae's tears not just for Duncan

RUFA MAE QUINTO COULDN'T HOLD BACK her tears on "S-Oil" last Sunday when asked by host "Sunwolf" onstage in South Border. The band is touring for UK for several months. Rufa is being linked to rocafort Duncan Ramos.

I asked why she cried. She said, "I will really miss them. But I'm happy for them. They deserve this big break. We're all very close, including their wives. We went together last Christmas and New Year's Eve. When her mom was hospitalized, and when my mo, too, they were the first ones to rush over."

So it's not just because of Duncan?

"If not for Duncan, I won't get to meet the rest of the band. He's the one closest to me, but five to many reasons, if possible staying home. We are happy with the way things are," said Mr. Bombshell.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Meanwhile, Agustin's rumored girlfriend/model Lani Pillinger is sorry that Sinta is again being paired with Julius Magelan gal. Lani is the pretty girl in the blue bikini with Hale. She has no reason to be jealous because Julius has a boyfriend (Bobong Mabini). Perhaps she's just a bit envious of the success of Sinta that Hayes has to spread with Juliana shooting their movie/soap.

Hmmm! Is he before joining "Pinoy Big Brother," Gina Khosaye applied to be one of the hosts of the new defunct show "Chat?" Since that show had catered to the child set, could the talks about Gina's being gay turn out to be true after all?

What an uncanny coincidence that Gina Rivero and Raymart Santiago's wedding was held 2 days before Michael's 4th death anniversary. Fate is cute. But somehow previous coincidences shape our hearts for we trust love.

Star tweets

I TEXTED my favorite Lorna Tolentino to check on the condition of Rudy Fernandez: "He's getting better. Still recuperating. Thanks for your prayers."

From Sonia Garcia-Albacin, "Lisa Nerds on March 27 is a girl. Paolo and I named her Maria Isabella. Our tiny princess weighed 3.15 lbs. Pilot a blessing!"

I texted Alfred Vargas to ask about the kid some between him and Li Reyes. He texted back: "As shown her as this sounds, we're just friends."

Eche's Scoops

JV Ejercito is a delight to be at Saturday's tuffle dinner to Megamall. Cinema 2 for Archie Saradet' loss of fourparents. The place was packed. Unlucky "Technicos" won all-expenses paid trips for two to Boracay. Echo gamely consented to adopting him and brought the house down with his punch lines. It was my first time to watch him live. I didn't know he had the gift of gab. Echo might as host a talk show aside from his cricketeering to show off his hidden skills. He's got different accents to match his comedic timing. Especially, Flo Hirose, Bardbeads, Ayers, Krispy and Yuhcharge! And of course the sweet smell of success.

Viktoria's back

AFTER winning a gold at the 22nd SEA Games, MTV Queen Viktoria is back with a new music video for her recent single "Salaboog." She teamed up with heartthrob Rich Gutierrez in the sizzling video, a mash from her new album "Hot Nothing."

Viktoria, debuting her new album from her electronic "It's too sweet & honest. Most of the songs were written when I had no access to my keyboards. I was traveling a lot with just my guitar."

'Nanay'

"NANAY," a fund raising concert by St. Bernard, Gumaque Lopez, will be held on April 7 Friday, 7 p.m. at Sheik's, Level 1, Greenbelt 3, Makati. Featured artists are Noel Cabangon, Pilita Corrales, Freddie Aguilar, Jacqui Magsaysay, Richard Merk, Lalay Walters and Teresa Vargas. Call 757-4128 to 29.

(E-mail secretly: boldstarpeople@yahoo.com.)

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BANDIDAS

CONTEL

ROUNDUP

Simon's new show

LOS ANGELES—SIMON COWELL, the outspoken judge on Fox's "American Idol," is producing for NBC.

All are eligible to try for the $1 million prize, he told a telephone news conference Monday. "You can be 2 years old, 100 years old. You can be the next Beckham's Child, Jackson 5 or David Copperfield. This show is literally open to anybody." AP

'Ocean's 13'

LOS ANGELES—GEORGE CLOONEY and Brad Pitt are pairing up once for "Ocean's 13," the third movie in the successful crime film franchise that started with "Ocean's Eleven."

Together, "Ocean" and "Ocean's Twelve" earned more than $900 million worldwide.

Producer Jerry Weintraub would divulge only one "secret" of the new movie: "There's going to be a heist." Reuters

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

BASIC INSTINCT 2
11:30, 1:15, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3

ICE AGE 2
1:45, 3:30, 5:30, 7:15, 9:30, 11:30
2

ICE AGE 2
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45, 11:45
1

VENOM
2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15, 11:30
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'Silver: The Songs of Vehnee Saturno'

FROM Left, Mark Bautista, Fernando and Chi Alcaraz

THEODORE SATURNO IS ONE OF THE country's best and most successful contemporary songwriters. His hit compositions include "Be My Lady," "Heaven's Not Enough," "How Could You Say You Love Me," "Years the Size," "Young Lady," "Make Do Peace," "Hard, Habit Mistake," "Sing-ple Song," "O Ha's Alone Please Stay," "Until Tonight Runs" and "Hada Da Bang Pop Ring."

These songs were popularized by some of the biggest names in the industry.

On May 26 at the Araneta Coliseum, these songs will be performed by today's popular artists in a special fund-raising concert, "Silver: Songs of Vehnee Saturno."

Celebrating the composer's 25th anniversary in the music industry, the concert will also benefit the Sta. Maria Sorrell Parish within the Pope Pius III Catholic Center in Manila. Main performers are Jay-R, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista and Jaya Fernandez and Chin Mcmanus of BPMD.

Guests are Jaya, Ella Mae Soriano, The Company and Marcia Stevens. Call 911-5555.

SHOW TIME

Rex Smith at Hard Rock

HARD ROCK Cafe and Stereo

D'Soul Productions presents American balladeer Rex Smith in what is billed as an "intimate" concert on Sunday, at 9:30 p.m.

Smith last visited the country in 2001 for a two-night Valentine show at the Araneta Coliseum.

Call 893-4661 to 64.

Mega repeat

SINGER Carmi's "My Mega Valentine" concert at the Araneta Coliseum will have a repeat tomorrow, 8 p.m.

She will have the same array of special guests—Rob Lucilonna, Christopher de Leon, Christian Bautista, Basil Valdez, Cassandra and Marvin Stevens, Lupe Ocampo in the musical director, and Johnny Manahan in stage direction.

Call 911-5555 or 913-7911.

Tonight

DJ Tiesto at the Philippine International Convention Center with DJ Mumbai "Mister" Bimbo 11 p.m.

Margie Hernando, Mimi Hernandez, Rimi Rustiveza, Carmi Francisco and Mina Rustiveza, modeler in the musical "We're Still Here" at Trade C

Tomorrow

Regional Luncheon with "Classic Romance" as guest concert at the Manila Marriott with Apex Band-Leader Mendez Lourdenges Fa

Margie Hernando, Rimi Rustiveza, Carmi Francisco and Mina Rustiveza, modeler in the musical "We're Still Here" at Trade C

'Jologs' st with a

THE FIRST TIME WE watched Channel 7's new show, "Jologs" (Sundays, 7 p.m.), we didn't get much of anything at all because its hosts, Eliot Boobs, Pekto and Rainier Castillo, acted so droll and hyper all throughout.

They seemed here on intoxicating their audience as Jologs, when in

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BASIC INSTINCT 2

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1 VENOM 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00
2 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00
PROMENADE
3 ICE AGE 2 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00
5 ICE AGE 2 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00
MARIBEL VI

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AT THE CINEMAS

G1	1	2 MOMENTS OF LOVE	3 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
G4	1 VENOM	2 JUST FRIENDS	3 BASIC INSTINCT 2	
	4 RENT	5 KANDY KISSES	6 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	7 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN
GB1	1 JUST FRIENDS		2 BASIC INSTINCT 2	
GB3	1 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN		2 JUST FRIENDS	
	3 RENT	4 ULTRAVIOLET	5 BASIC INSTINCT 2	
ATC	1 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN		2 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	
	3 JUST FRIENDS	4 MOMENTS OF LOVE	5 VENOM	
ACC	1 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	2 BASIC INSTINCT 2	3 VENOM	4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
M2	1 MOMENTS OF LOVE		2 VENOM	
	3 JUST FRIENDS	4 BASIC INSTINCT 2	5 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN	

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	GREENBELT TOWN CENTER
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Child Development Center of Cebu's Cotillionating Activities March 25, 2006	Lani's Engineered Freebies Park April 1 & 2, 2006

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April 1, 2006 - Greenbelt 3 Park

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Nestor U. Torre

VIEWFINDER

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2 NANNY MCPHEE
3 BASIC INSTINCT 2
4 VENOM
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
Lianas Cinema
Lianas Cinema
Lianas MaxxCity
Rizal Cinema
Rizal World Mall
Rizal Cinema
Shang Cineplex
Shang Cineplex
Festival Cinema
Festival Cinema
Hollywood Cinemas
Hollywood Cinemas
Cinema 2000 Alabang
Cinema 2000 Festival Mall
Cinema 2000 Greenhills
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Cinema 2000 Muntinlupa
Cinema 2000 Robinsons Galleria
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
Blue Wave
Stormall
Megaworld Cinema
Cinema 2000 Alabang
Cinema 2000 Festival Mall
Cinema 2000 Greenhills
Cinema 2000 Metrowalk
Cinema 2000 Muntinlupa
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GALLERIA

1 ICE AGE 2 - THX	6 BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE	7 JUST FRIENDS
3 LUCKY SLEVEN	8 SHE'S THE MAN
4 VENOM	9 ULTRAVIOLET
5 ICE AGE 2	10 NANNY MCPHEE

ERMITA

1 ICE AGE 2	
2 NANNY MCPHEE ULTRAVIOLET	5 VENOM
3 LUCKY SLEVEN	6 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 JUST FRIENDS	7 BASIC INSTINCT 2

METRO EAST

1 JUST FRIENDS	5 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 LUCKY SLEVEN	6 VENOM
3 ICE AGE 2	7 NANNY MCPHEE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2	8 SHE'S THE MAN

NOVALICHES

1 BASIC INSTINCT 2	4 VENOM
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE	5 LUCKY SLEVEN
3 ICE AGE 2	6 JUST FRIENDS

CITISQUARE MALABON — PIONEER

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE	1 BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 ICE AGE 2	2 ICE AGE 2
3 RESERVE	3 VENOM
4 RESERVE	4 LUCKY SLEVEN

STA. ROSA — LIPA

1 HOUSE OF FURY	1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 VENOM	2 ICE AGE 2
3 ICE AGE 2	3 GLORY ROAD
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE	4 16 BLOCKS

DASMARINAS — ANGELES

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE	1 VENOM
2 ICE AGE 2	2 ICE AGE 2
3 VENOM	3 LUCKY SLEVEN
4 LUCKY SLEVEN	4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 ULTRAVIOLET	

IMUS — STARMILLS

1 MOMENTS OF LOVE	1 MOMENTS OF LOVE
2 ICE AGE 2	2 ICE AGE 2
3 VENOM	3 VENOM
4 ULTRAVIOLET	4 LUCKY SLEVEN
5 LUCKY SLEVEN	5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 CODE-ED SCANDAL	6 HOUSE OF FURY

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 V FOR VENDETTA	1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE	2 GLORY ROAD
3 ICE AGE 2	3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 GLORY ROAD	4 DATE MOVIE
5 NYRANA	5 V FOR VENDETTA
6 THE DARK	6 MOMENTS OF LOVE

'We simply grew apart'

(continued from page A2-1)

whole year. I had to make sure [if] my decision[s] because we were together for a long time."

Pia said the relationship had been rocky for a while. "I'd go abroad with the cast of 'Eat... Bulaga!' ... and never missed Mike. I figured there must be something wrong."

She added: "I'm Miss Quality Control, (but) pending gumpo-gumpo. Ang, for me, dapat boyfriend mo, dapat mismo ma-mayo's mayo."

The TV host, Lizzie Pia Gonzales Casano in real life, said her family supported her decision.

"My parents are always behind me," she said. "They taught me that to experience a marriage."

A source close to Pia said the family never approved of her living with Mike for years now. The source refused to elaborate, except to say the couple last appeared together in a family gathering on Valentine's Day.

As a result of the break-up Pia is now being romantically linked to her "Eat ... Bulaga!" cohost Vic Sotto.

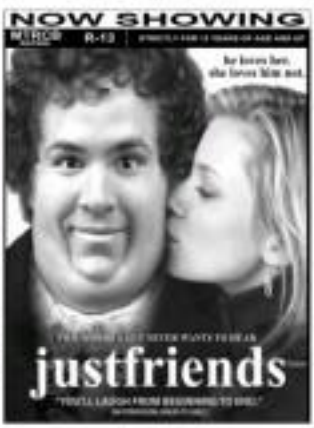
When Inquirer sought Vic's comment, the comedian-TV host said in text message: "Bat tanong."

In 2003, Vic admitted going out with a model named Pia Cabrera. Tabloid reports say they're still a couple.

Acid test for Karylle

FANS OF KARYLLE AND HER BOYFRIEND Dingdong Dantes are not happy about "Moments of Love," currently in theaters. Dingdong's close kissing scenes with the actress in his Calibesh, the film real-life teasings, this is an awful time.

"But I don't regret accepting the role," Karylle says. "Seldom does a film this good come along."



POZTROT BY BELL SPERO

A. LIPAY BY EDU ABRERA

HAGEN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY PIC JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

ATOMIC AND HENRY BY LYRA GARCES-LAVA

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PANALING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

HUBADKOSMOS BY JOHNIE TEJIDO

DAILY CROSSWORD

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY TINEX ABRERA

LONGSHOTS BY ELIZABETH MCDONALD

TULBOK BY RAFU AND TATUM HILARIO SUING

ENTERTAINMENT

Bitoy's toys

Michael V has three kids, but guess who has the most action figures and model kits?

By Philbert R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guico Pamaran

HAVE you ever anything like this McFarlane dragon?

MICHAEL V TAKES PLEASURE IN EACH OF the many roles he plays.

The 36-y.o. husband and the father of three kids. He is the host of two top-rating shows on GMA 7 ("Bubble Gang" and "Bitoy's Funniest"). He is a product endorser. He is a sculptor and a sports enthusiast.

During this visit to his three-story home in Quezon City, Michael V, fondly known as Bitoy, plays escort to hapless Entertainment, referring us here means where he keeps his favorite things.

One such room on the second floor is what he calls the family work area. It holds the comedian's three Jeep and bar collections. It also has Bitoy's Macintosh computer and other gadgets. "It says that we have this kind of room. This is my office," Bitoy says, "and also the kids' homework area."

Displayed in another room, on the third floor, is Bitoy's collection of his favorite DVDs. "Rather 'my friendly crate'" he points out.

Also in here are Bitoy's rare toys, like his Todd McFarlane collection and Darth Vader lightsabers, bought in Japan. "I have action figures, too. The Terminator is my all-time favorite [Arnold] Schwarzenegger character," he says with enthusiasm.

Unfortunately, Bitoy says, his costumes and collection of wigs are stored on the set of "Bubble Gang," in Makati City. He plays female characters in the long-running gag show.

"The trick is to wear something that will make you look like a real woman. In 'Bubble Gang,' we play real women, not gay impersonators. May pinagpipilian ng mga kasuotang mga babae. It's important that the audience believes you're really female."

BY a rare round

HOT a collector

A THING for caps

TOYS

"I'm a collector of Todd McFarlane toys. He's the comic book artist who created the character Spawn. He's one of the finest toy makers around [shows a McFarlane dragon sculpture]. Look how detailed this is. Have you ever seen anything like it? Look at the scales. He's really good.

"For a time, I was into model kits. I first assembled the Predator, then Terminator. I'm now into sculpting.

"I have action figures, too. Hell Boy is one of my favorite comic characters. And because I collect Frank Miller's Sin City, I got Marv. I bought Charlie—Johnny Depp's character in the 'Chocolate Factory' movie—because he's my daughter's favorite.

"I'm a big 'Matrix' fan, hence, the Neo, Morpheus and Trinity action figures. I bought 'Smallville' characters for my wife. I also collect anything that's related to Darth Vader, like these lightsabers that I found in Japan."

DVDs

"I have the complete collection of the 'Matrix' series, 'Terminator' is my favorite DE movie. For me, the 'Wedding Singer' is Adam Sandler's finest movie so far. Jim Carrey is at his best in 'Liar! Liar!' Nakakatawa si nakakatuyak sa the same time."

SHOES

"I'm a sneakers guy. Maybe because when I was still young, I couldn't afford them. I own a lot of like five rubber shoes. I think I have a bone spur. It hurts when I walk so I need lightweight footwear. I bought my first pair in Malaysia. After using it several times, my muscles strengthened. Since then, I buy every time Nike introduces a new model.

"I don't own a lot of formal footwear. But I make sure I have one! Sure that I could use. I like Wade Shoes. The designs are good and prices are competitive. I own a pair of rubber shoes for each sport I'm into, like basketball, basketball, boxing, tennis and, just recently, golf.

"I also own, bring to shoes (shows his Nike Air Zoom XP) and cycling shoes (finds silver Nike Abea II). I'm not into hang

THE PRECIOUS Omega

it or cycling. I just use them for going out. Gym trainers work for almost all kinds of sports. I own a couple of pairs.

"I don't consider myself a collector of shoes. Mahilig lang talaga ako. I don't wait for a particular model, unlike Antonio Aquitanas [Bubble Gang] mentioned. He doesn't care how much it costs.

"When I buy shoes, I try them on first, that's important. As for the price, it doesn't really matter if they're inexpensive as long as they're comfortable. Just don't buy pinoset shoes. Mahirap na, isang ang sakit mo. Buy a mamahin pair of you mean."

CAPS

"One of those caps was a gift from by favorite singer! April Boy Regino. He was one of my guests on [the show debut] 'Celebrity Bytes.' I dared him to give the cap he was wearing to me. He's known for handing out locally made baseball caps to his fans. True true, he said he got it from a friend abroad.

THAT'S a neat way to store 'em

"Dickies Clothing provides most of my caps. I have with me caps that are not yet released in the local market. One is the prototype of the original Dickies cap released for the Sunday recently. I also own a lot of caps featuring my favorite comic book superheroes like The Flash, Green Lantern, Batman and Superman.

ACCESSORIES

"I get my accessories from Charmee and Crystals. I don't really believe that crystals could change the way people live their lives. It's just that I've been looking for the perfect accessories for a long time now.

"I'm really not a collector of watches, but there's this one watch that I got interested in after I saw its ad in a magazine. It's an Omega special. Philippine edition watch. Omega came up with only 100 pieces. The magazine I was reading at the time was already two months old. I didn't think I could still find one until I chanced upon a watch shop in Greenhills. I was proud to find out that the one I bought was the first piece of the 100.

"The Swatch/Irony/Ice watch was a gift from the director of Jay-15, Ici, which I endorse. I use this mostly para magpapogi, na hindi ko naman alam kung effective si akin.

"Before I acquired these timepieces, I was stunned by the technology of Seiko. I bought two Seiko kinetic and auto relay watches. Watches like these are powered by motion, it's a technology that translates every movement of the watch into electricity.

"I got a Luminox watch from my wife's cousin who lives in Japan. They say this is the watch that the Navy Seals use."

SHIRTS AND PANTS

"When I find a style that I like, I buy them in all the colors available. The most recent brands that I remember buying were Cole and Giordano. I like Giordano's slim fit shirt so I bought five pieces in different colors.

"Dickies Clothing provide most of the shirts and pants I wear on my TV shows. Dickies jeans are very comfortable."

BAGS

"I've always believed that there's one backpack for all my expectations. Because of my search for that ultimate backpack, ang dami ko nang nabili.

"Right now, I'm addicted to Burgess bags. There's this one particular Burgess that I like because its multi compartment is found on the rear side. This is how it should be, think for us manufacturers. I also like sling bags. They're trendy, they're easy to use.

"I own a laptop bag from Bobbie B. This is a gift from my wife's cousin whom we visited in Japan. When this brand line came out here, it was worth P10,000. Then, that one released it for half the price. This is really for electronic equipment like laptops. It's heavy, but sturdy.

"I'm currently using a Columbia backpack. It's so light that it practically weighs nothing. The only weight you'll feel is those of the stuff you put inside."

QUEST for the ultimate backpack

JACKETS

"That black mesh slide jacket is from the brand Columbia. It's so light. Mamimiss ninyo ako dito, it's made from the material used for tents. I also bought several pairs from Columbia. It's great for travel.

"I fell in love with this Dickies jacket the first time I saw it. I remembered the movie 'Gil Bill.' This is Dickies' bestseller. Aside from the yellow version, I also have it in gray, red and blue.

"I have jackets for others. I ride my motorbike. They're from Gimmee. You should protect yourself when you're riding a bike. Aside sa maliwanag ha-ha-ha-long

JACKETS are great for travel

BESTSELLERS for Bitoy

HE has a complete "Matrix" series ... and much much more.

BUSINESS

Editor Raoul D. Maruzo ✦ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Finance seeks repeal of 40 tax perks laws

Gov't loses P300B a year due to granting of incentives

By Michaela V. Reyna and Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID IT WOULD LOBBY FOR THE passage of its own version of a fiscal incentives rationalization plan with a potential of generating P10.3 billion in annual savings for the national government.

A finance official said the savings would come from the proposed repeal of 40 laws that currently grant various fiscal incentives—cash in tax and duty exemptions to different industries.

The Lower House has already passed its own version of the fiscal rationalization bill, which only seeks to repeal 37 laws.

The version adopted by the House of Representatives was almost similar to that being pushed by the Board of Investments (BOI). The BOI estimated that its version of the fiscal incentives rationalization plan would result in an annual savings of P9.43 billion.

But the finance official expressed concern that the House's and the BOI's version of the rationalization plan would not result in any savings for the national government, but in a realloud to more corporate revenues.

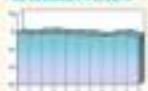
He explained that the House's version, while it aims to consolidate all fiscal incentives-related laws into one omnibus law, proposes the granting of income tax holidays to

FINANCE B2

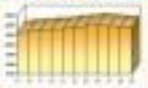
INQUIRER MONITOR

Diesel gets lion's share in RP's increased demand for petroleum products in 2005

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET



Shares close lower

ALLOTS P100M FOR RP-PALAU ROUTE

Asian Spirit goes international

By Dwin L. Lucas

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cebu Pacific offers P1 airline seats

Peso rise seen to bring down 2006 Customs collection

Proliferation of fake goods alarms ECCP

By Michelle V. Rafer

EUROPEAN BUSINESSMEN have asked the government to step up efforts to go after trade... ters of intellectual property rights, following the proliferation of counterfeit European products.

The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) said fake appliances, car parts, and pharmaceutical products have made their way into the domestic market, adversely affecting businesses of legitimate European manufacturers.

"The counterfeit products are yet another barrier to increased corporate investments from Europe. Likewise, there is a big risk to health and safety of individuals who would be acquiring these items," ECCP executive vice president Henry Schumacher said in a statement.

ECCP cited data from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), which showed that, although products of the...

...copied product in the Philippines, six European products were among the top 10.

Those include products of Finland footwear giants Adidas and Reebok, United Kingdom beverage and apparel company Burberry, French luxury goods conglomerate Louis Vuitton, French clothing company Lacoste, and United Kingdom cigarette maker Benson & Hedges.

"We are urging the Philippine government to take immediate steps as European companies are currently exporting losses due to the problem," Schumacher added.

The ECCP official said his group appreciated the Philippine government's effort to implement a no-settlement policy against violators of IPRs.

He added, however, that such efforts should be intensified.

The ECCP formed an IPR committee composed of businessmen executives and lawyers, tasked with fighting counterfeits from Intellectual...

...dealing with fake European products.

SEC may keep 35% offer rule

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission may keep its rule requiring investors to make a tender offer if they and a minority shareholders...

...gain at least 35 percent of a publicly-listed company.

This came in the wake of stiff opposition by influential private sector groups, including the Philippine Stock Exchange, to the SEC plan to bring down the trigger level to...

...far-sale to just 15 percent.

"The SEC is considering the requirement in the light of the various position papers submitted to us," SEC chief Perfecto Yasay told the business...

The SEC move to review its tender offer rule drew sharp protests from the Philippine Stock Exchange, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines and the Brokers Association of the Philippines.

The four groups said in a joint position paper that reducing the trigger level for the tender offer rule to take effect from 35 percent to 15 percent "will discourage foreign investments flows into the Philippines and result in disproportionate mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

The drop in M&A activity will, in turn, reduce stock market trading activities, they added.

They explained that many direct investments companies or private equity firms were only interested in getting a substantial stake in a company, without necessarily gaining control of the listed firm.

The PSE said in a supplemental position paper submitted on Tuesday that the stock market would lose more investments and big further behind its neighbors, if a lower tender offer trigger is imposed.

"One false step on the matter, and we will look like a slow dinosaur stepping over himself in the middle of a race among tall sprinters," PSE president Francis Lim said in a statement after he submitted the PSE supplemental position paper to the SEC.

Scheme milk

BREAKTIME

Gonzalo R. Bautista III

THEY ARE STILL AT IT!

Only now, it's the turn of the other government-run pension fund, the GSIS, to feel the, well, "pressure" from the SM group of mall-developer Henry Sy, Jr.

Under the scheme, Attorney Sy's daughter Susan Sy Cosiu, the SM group's Banco de Oro is to absorb Equitable PCI Bank through a "merger," to effect taking control of the larger EPCIB for a song.

Therefore, the GSIS's 555-and GSIS owns roughly 40 percent of EPCIB, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia seems "sold" for the GSIS holdings.

This Cebu businessman boy who dared to fight the giant SM group felt the heat during the latest GSIS board meeting.

Garcia wanted to synchronize the sale of the GSIS holdings and the massive 10-percent "treasury shares."

That's when he got a rebuff from a member of the GSIS board, who happened to be the chair himself, by the name of Secretary Leo Abad.

Does he want to sound familiar?

***

All 4 backgrounders, EPCIB itself supposedly paid for those "treasury shares" when the by-family, in a joint venture with EIBB and SSS, bought the old PCI Bank in 1998.

In other words, the "treasury shares" are locked in the bank, doing nothing, benefiting nobody.

Consequently, Garcia's argument is, since doing NOthing, as financial adviser of EPCIB, recommends that the bank sell those shares to raise additional capital.

The 10-percent block can, of course, be given to the SM group for practically nothing, but that's the bank and earn more money.

Any insurance policy that owns, say, having the holdings of the GSIS and the SSS, or even the SM group, in which case the money will go to the stockholders — not the bank.

That, Garcia is caught in a fight with the SM group...which seems to have found an ally in the other pension fund, SSS — over the sale of the remaining 5.6 percent "treasury shares."

Together with those "treasury shares," the GSIS holdings in EPCIB will be able to command a good price. The combined block will equate a 24-percent stake in the bank.

In any company, particularly in a publicly listed company like EPCIB, even less than 24 percent is enough for management control.

All the buyer needs to do is to buy out either the SSS or the SM group to gain majority control of the bank.

In Garcia, the "synchronized sale" should attract buyers, plus command a handsome premium.

In short, it is good for the GSIS, right? And also for its millions of members who all happen to be underpaid government employees, right?

***

That, unfortunately, is not how the GSIS board chair Alex sees it.

Now, the chair is a former Cabinet member, having served the latter of Gloriarroyo, the late former President Diosdado Macapagal.

During the board meeting, Abad insisted that Garcia and company sell the GSIS holdings in EPCIB as scheduled on April 6, with or without the 10-percent "treasury shares," and whether or not the GSIS block can attract agreed price. even if it can attract buyers.

Just how reasonable is such a demand from the old man (then, anyway)?

For, see, the GSIS board earlier voted to go with the proposal of management (i.e. Garcia and company) to sell the GSIS holdings for US$54—and not "pieces of paper" as proposed by the SM group.

In other corporations, such a board resolution is tantamount to giving management the leeway to do whatever is necessary to accomplish the task at hand.

To me, the pressure from Abad, as GSIS board chair, is not going to do the GSIS plan to sell the EPCIB holdings any good.

For one thing, the corporate buyers will surely take advantage of the apparent internal strife in the pension fund.

For another, a divided house of Garcia S.A. (GSIS himself will benefit only the very same group that Garcia is fighting.

Wholesome, that's the SM group.

***

AGAIN as a background, that Abad guy used to be the chair of the other pension fund, SSS.

Today, by the way, thanks to SSS president and CEO Corazon de la Paz, who just arrived in Manila from a month-long SSS-abroad, SSS is a member of the SM group takeover of EPCIB.

Now, only about two years ago, when Abad was SSS chair, the pension fund entered into a feud with SM group on the SSS holdings in EPCIB.

In effect, the SSS was to sell the shares at P43 each, with the guaranty coming after seven long years. The deal is now the topic of a couple of cases pending before the Supreme Court.

But here is the thing—the deal was done in a hurry, during a midnight meeting on a holiday, reportedly called for by none other than the SSS chair.

If I remember right, the SSS commission was called to a "special meeting" on Dec. 30, 2003—National Rizal's Day...which lasted until midnight.

SSS insiders at that time were saying that the commissioners decided to sell the shares to the SM group.

Somebody simply ordered management to make the recommendation to the commissioners in their offices, supposedly to save the commission members' "k...s."

In short, another stinking the-SSS-members scheme was cooked up today.

I mean, the three people really were, as we somebody else!

Asian Spirit . . .

From page B1

During the briefing, Tambo added that the new team also passed the way for a "limited bilateral tourism partnership" between Palawan and the Philippines, just before the premier of Cinema.

"We believe [tourism will be the gateway to other international destinations, especially to the East Asian and Micronesian countries," he added.

Perhaps as part of the Micronesian chain of islands famous for its diving sites, offering a wealth of marine life, unspoiled reefs, and pristine coastlines.

BSP sees drop in March inflation; expects no change in key policy rates

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL INFLATION rate is likely to soften to 6.5 percent in March or at worst, inside the 7.6 percent growth in February, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

"The [BSP's] inflation forecast for March is 6.5-7.6 percent, the same or lower than February due to lower domestic pump prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Tetangco also said there was no need for the BSP to augment the 25-percentage interest rate hike mandated by the US Federal Reserve on targeted funds rate today.

"Given the projected deceleration of inflation in the second half, the nature of price pressures, and the positive performance of the peso, there seems to be no compelling reason to change the policy stance in this time," Tetangco said.

The US Fed, under its new chair Ben Bernanke, raised its key interest rate for the 15th straight time by another 25 basis points to 4.75 percent. The US economy has been hinted this was not the last of its tightening measures, given continuing inflation risks in the world's biggest economy.

But the BSP hiked its overnight borrowing rate steady at 7.5 percent, and overnight lending at 9.5 percent since October last year.

A non-moving differential between interest rates in the US and the Philippines that could cause foreign exchange volatility is only one consideration in the BSP's monetary management, which uses an inflation-targeting approach.

The BSP believes the country's inflation path is sure on a downward after the recent hike in the value-added tax rate caused the February rate to spike to 7.6 percent from 6.7 percent in January.

Nevertheless, the government expects average inflation rate to 2006 to extend its official target of 4-5 percent. The latest data are by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee pegs the average inflation rate to range between 7.1 percent and 7.9 percent this year.

Last year, the BSP hiked its overnight rates by a sum of 75 basis points, on top of a 2 percentage hike in the reserve requirement to protect its inflation targets.

Cebu Pacific offers P1 airline seats

Peso rise will bring down '06 Customs collection

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS IS EXPECTing to lose about P6.6 billion to potential duty collections this year because of the peso's recent gains against the US dollar.

The BOC's revenue collection performance is adversely affected by the appreciation of the peso because a stronger local currency means lower dollar value of imported goods upon which tariffs are based.

According to estimates by the Department of Finance, the BOC's revenue is normally slashed by about P2.2 billion for every cent of appreciation of the peso.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the inter-agency body tasked with setting the government's economic targets, earlier revised its assumption average of the peso for 2006. From the original forecast that the peso will settle between 58 and 57 against the US dollar, the peso is now seen to average at a stronger range of 57 to 53 against the greenback.

The DBCC normally uses the midpoint of a given range of projections in making its economic and fiscal programs. The original midpoint projection of 58 to a dollar was therefore revised to 52, reflecting the government's expectation that the local currency would strengthen by P6 from the original forecast.

The BOC expects imports to reach $52.6 billion this year, higher than last year's $47.437 billion. But the higher duty collection that is supposed to result from the expected rise in imports would be partially offset by the appreciation of the peso.

A finance official, however, said the government was not worried about the possible impact of a lower BOC collection on the government's fiscal position. The win become the potential losses in BOC collection brought about by a higher value of the peso would likely be offset by higher revenues to be generated from the recent increase in the value-added tax rate.

The OIC rate was increased from 10 to 12 percent last July 1. The BOC said the increase was estimated to generate P75 billion in incremental revenues this year.

Shares . . . From page B4

Losers outnumbered gainers 81 to 72, and 46 stocks closed flat.

Bellwether sees 2.9 billion shares nearly P1.16 billion.

Cybercoalition analyst Mark Alec Gutierrez said he considered prices of some blue chips still expensive following their a good last week, although others that have fallen in the past two days, may have started to recover.

"It is the overall trend of the market is still up. There are just normal corrections along the way," Gutierrez said. AFP

Finance seeks repeal . . . From page B4

selected industries up to a maximum of 20 years, which the DOF considered as too long.

The DOF prefers that the current income tax holiday of six years be retained.

The BOI and the DOF have been at loggerheads over the issue of fiscal incentives because of their conflicting mandates. While the BOI is tasked with attracting the entry of more investments, partly through the granting of incentives, the DOF has to address the government's gaping budget deficit.

The DOF maintained its position that the government must not grant tax fiscal incentives just to attract investments, adding that other factors like a stable regulatory environment and infrastructure development were factors often considered by investors.

The BOI, on the other hand, said it believed incentives were helpful in attracting more investments to the country, which currently lags in Southeast Asian neighbors in terms of generating foreign direct investments.

The P300 billion in foregone revenues each year were equivalent to about 40 percent of the government's total revenues, according to a Department of Finance study.

The DOF surrendered 146 tax incentives laws as of end-2004, including laws with investment and non-investment related tax perks as well as various provisions under the country's tax, tariff and customs and local government codes.

The total amount of tax and duty exemptions granted in 2004 stood at P161.76 billion, based on a report to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves dated March 24.

In 2003, total foregone revenue from the same measures were estimated at P209.23 billion.

This amount represents a 0.71 percent decline from the 2003 levels but remains staggering as it represents 5.05 percent of GDP (gross domestic product); 40.41 percent of annual government revenues and 211.11 percent of national government deficits," the memorandum said.

A DOF official explained that the complicated web of fiscal incentives was the reason why the government always took over a year to quantify the revenue impact of fiscal commitment.

Of the total amount of tax and duty exemptions in 2004, P136.25 billion or 84.28 percent were granted through the Board of Investments, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, special economic zones, free ports and industrial estates.

The rest were granted P110.58 billion in fiscal incentives, bulk of which represented tax and duty-free importation made by its investors.

As to type of tax, the bulk of exemptions were in the form of VAT exemptions, amounting to P108.06 billion," the DOF study said.

Low fare leader follows up success of P10 promo

By Evans L. Lacar

CAPITALIZING ON THE SUCCESS OF its recent P10 fare promo, budget airline Cebu Pacific Air Inc. is now offering seats for only one peso on flights to any of its domestic destinations from June 20 to October 14 this year.

The one-peso fare sale started yesterday and will run until April 2 or until the seats are sold out.

There are more than 50,000 seats available for this promo, extended on a first-come, first-served basis, exclusive of taxes and surcharges.

"We are the country's low fare leader and we will always have the lowest fares to any destination we fly to," Cebu Pacific general manager Bong Medina said in a statement. "It's all about making flying affordable to more people so just wait now that we're giving our customers practically for free, shouldn't anyone can fly."

He added that the airline was encouraged by the success of its previous promo, which was launched to coincide with its 13th anniversary celebration.

"We realized how much the market can be stimulated or moved and how ahead of time," Medina said. "It's something we want to further promote because we want Filipinos to realize that, the earlier they book their tickets, the less they really end up paying for them."

The Cebu Pacific official advised clients to book their seats through the airline's website (www.cebupacific.com) for added convenience.

"With our new planes, the lowest fares, and the ease of getting tickets, the only thing left for you to do is decide on where you want to go," Medina said.

Cebu Pacific's last promo—which offered seats at P10 for travel during the June-October off-peak season—managed to attract over 150,000 seat sales, according to the airline.

The figure is 30 percent higher than the 120,000 seats which the airline had originally made available during the promo period.

The additional sales generated by the promo could be accommodated on scheduled Cebu Pacific flights for the period, without the need to deploy additional flights.

The promo allowed the airline to sell between 8 percent to 9 percent of seats available for sale during the period.

Inclusive of taxes, YQ levies, fuel, surcharges, and insurance charges, round trip passage to a Visayas destination will cost slightly over P2,000 per passenger, while a round trip ticket to Mindanao destinations will cost close to P2,500.

Flu-hit nations turn to RP poultry

By Christine A. Gaylican

COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND the European Union that have been badly hit by the avian flu are now turning to the Philippines for their supply of poultry products.

Philippine poultry meets have begun exporting to South Africa, Germany and Russia, aside from neighboring countries Hong Kong, Singapore and Indonesia in the first semester, according to the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (PAMI).

Top poultry names include San Miguel Corp., Swift Agro-Industries Inc., Universal Robina Corp. and Pilmico Corp.

"There is an ongoing negotiation for Hong Kong which we hope could cut our dependence for poultry exports this year," said Ruben Bernad, president of the poultry exporters' board.

Bernad is hoping that the Hong Kong trade will serve as a gateway to the broader China market.

Bernad expects that the growth in poultry exports will make up for the slack in local consumption as consumers appear to be tightening their spending even further.

Consumers in countries also received inquiries from the Middle East and Africa for the sale of whole or processed chicken products.

Pilot initiatives are now underway a "halal" certification in order to export to Middle East countries.

The grant of a "Halal" accreditation from a Muslim country would mean that the poultry products have passed through proper preparation procedures.

Brunei, also a Muslim nation, has expressed its interest in acquiring poultry products from the Philippines, the agriculture department said.

The P139-billion Philippine poultry industry has so far been spared from the bird flu outbreak that has devastated other countries.

The avian influenza has already killed millions of chickens in South Korea, Thailand, Japan, the former Soviet republics and Europe. It has also caused the death of more than 86 people across Asia.

According to World Health Organization officials, the avian flu is getting to be a major source of concern, fearing that the virus will develop the ability to infect humans.

As present, there is no known defense against the disease save the avian flu mutates spreads to humans.

Joint venture benefits seen to trickle down to seamen

A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN Japan-based Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) and locally-based Philippine Shipping Lines recently invested over P150 million to help improve the training of Filipino seafarers.

In a press briefing, MCL president Akimitsu Ashida said his company's investment in the Magsaysay Institute of Shipping (MIS) is aimed to improve the quality of seamen cadets, many of whom are hired by MOL—one of Japan's largest cargo shipping firms.

In particular, the new funds are being used to increase the number of cadets in the school from 240 to 480, by 2012.

The investment will also be used to upgrade the MIS' management facilities, acquire new training instruments, as well as construct a new dormitory in Cavite, according to Magsaysay Maritime Corp. CEO Dante Magsaysa-Ang.

"Our greatest resource is our people," she said. "Each bulk carrier runs about 300 million. Naturally, you'll want the best people running this."

During the briefing, officials of Mitsui O.S.K. Marine (Asia) Ltd. and Mitsui O.S.K. Marine (Mag@MOL) will go into full ship management operations that will include training, manning and shore-based management.

Ashida also revealed plans to hire more Filipino seamen over the next five years.

Ashida said 70 percent of Mitsui's 28,000 seamen are trained are Filipinos. Darwin L. Lucas

GLOBE TELECOM

NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular annual stockholders' meeting of GLOBE TELECOM, INC. will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Make Hotel,Corinthian Manila, Ayala Center, Makati City on TUESDAY, 04 APRIL 2006 at 9:00 A.M. with the following:

AGENDA

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Annual Report of Officers
4. New Business
   4.1 Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management adopted in the ordinary course of business during the preceding year.
5. Election of Directors (including the Independent Directors)
6. Election of Auditors and Fixing their Remuneration
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

Stockholders of record as of 15 February 2006 shall be the stockholders entitled to vote at this meeting. As per By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from 21 February to 03 March 2006, inclusive.

Mandaluyong City, 07 February 2006.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Sgd.) RENATO G. IRARDIN
Corporate Secretary

Spiral is open, get caught in a spin

Hotel Philippine Plaza breaks new ground with Spiral, a new concept of a 'culinary theater' that blends international cuisine with a dash of drama. Here, the chefs are the performers, the kitchens their stage, and the diners the eager audience.

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE EXPERIENCE OF DINING AT HOTEL Philippine Plaza is now somewhat different. Walk over to the lobby and you'll find a long table with a sushi bar at one end, a carving station at the other, and a row of chefs in the middle, all ready to prepare your food right before your eyes.

This is Spiral, the hotel's new all-day dining restaurant that opened last week. Spiral is the first restaurant in the Philippines to be designed by Yabu Pushelberg, a Toronto-based design firm that has worked on restaurants for Donna Karan, Stella McCartney and Marc Jacobs.

Spiral is also the first restaurant in the country to be operated by Spiral Culinary Concepts, a division of Spiral Inc., a Tokyo-based company that has been in the restaurant business for 30 years. Spiral Inc. owns and operates 30 restaurants in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, including Gaya Kaiseki, Gaya Dining and Bar, Tsukiji Sushi Sei and Tsukiji Sushi Sei Honten.

Spiral Inc. president Yoshiaki Kuroda says the company's goal is to create "culinary theaters" that will "offer a new style of entertainment dining." Spiral Culinary Concepts is the division that will develop these theaters.

Kuroda says Spiral Culinary Concepts is looking to open more restaurants in the Philippines, but declines to say where or when. "We are looking at several locations, but we have not yet decided," he says.

Spiral Culinary Concepts president and executive chef Hideki Endo says the company's goal is to "create a new kind of entertainment that blends international cuisine with a dash of drama. Here, the chefs are the performers and the restaurant their stage."

To heighten the culinary act, Spiral brings together an international team of chefs from the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Korea, China, India and the Philippines ensuring the highest level of quality.

The culinary team is led by Executive Chef Jake Jake Roberts, who is known for opening new and trendy restaurants across Europe, such as The Cafe in the Mezzanine, Hotel Bar&Bibs, London and The Square in Beverly Apollo Singapore.

Dishes from the different regions

For the Japanese culinary station, Master Chef Yoshimi Igarashi prepares light, healthy and fresh Japanese cuisine with authentic Japanese tastes. Igarashi dazzles the dining audience with traditional Japanese bar dishes and innovative appetizers served in mini household crystals. Igarashi whips up his creations such as sea urchin, hotategai, sushi and sashimi and a variety of noodles.

Indian Chef Indrajit Roy puts up the guests' palate with a selection of the best dishes from the different regions of India. Enjoy a range of kebabs, Indian breads, curries and grains—all prepared with the distinct spiciness in charcoal fired tandoor. India's very own head chef notes, "Indian food is one flavored when it is cooked in clay pot," says Roy.

Hong Kong chef and master at the wok Chef Ivo Man Hung prepares a range of traditional and modern Chinese dishes, noodles and freshly roasted Chinese barbecue at the Chinese station. Visiting Chinese Chef Chan Chui Wai creates dimsum favorites with his unique variations. Korean Chef Oh Seung Hyun whips up popular and traditional Korean dishes.

Chef Mario Laguna, one of Manila's youngest and dynamic chefs, heads the Mediterranean kitchen. A wide range of fire and cold Italian fished from parts of Europe and the Middle East are offered with one big caveat.

Executive Pastry Chef Ivan Gonzalez original tea, petite freshly baked from the pizza ovens, croquettes, fresh seafood sesame, Middle Eastern Mezze dishes and fresh cuisine and viennoise prepared in a manner. Indulge in the cold finishes, which offers fresh, organic salads, a seafood iceberg, cold cuts, different cheeses, and sushi and sashimi.

A team of the art grill station shows off the freshest seafood of the season and the juiciest accompanying steaks.

The pastry section is extensive yet comfortable and extraordinary. It is like the candy corner in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory with a nice and neat arrangement in glass encasements and mouth watering creations, cakes, desserts and chocolates. Executive Pastry Chef Ivan Gonzalez says for pregnancy 20 types of pastries every day... fresh strawberries dipped in pink and dark chocolate fountains, French pastries, cakes, tarts, fruity specialties, chocolate truffles, soufflés and crepes. For the health conscious, we have famous specialty the sugar-free desserts.

Experience the Spiral difference

French national Food and Beverage Manager Jerome Lanoux has ordered only the finest wines and champagnes from the cellar that houses 3,000 selections. Some are sourced from its limited wines; the region boasting of the best selection of French wines, and from hard-to-get wines from all over the world. Lanoux says a team of wine waiters will be on hand to advise guests on the extensive wine selection. Spiral will also offer special wine dinners in the private dining room of the Mediterranean station.

The Spiral service team, according to Executive Assistant Manager Ike Sloan, is a group of outstanding Filipino trade assistants and trained to create the "Spiral difference." He says, "These hotel college graduates will be an asset in the success of Spiral through their commitment to excellence. They have undergone an extensive training in food and beverage and service skills."

Project Cohost Broker, Interactive Spiral's atmosphere is exciting for returning as often more. Natural outdoor environment spills to reveal the landscaped veranda over the poolside allowing guests to sit al fresco for tea and lunch meetings sunset. Outdoor dining areas are also available for guests who wishes enjoy their meals at times while breathing the sea breeze.

Blaire is incorporated into Spiral's design. Open deck pool outdoors, waterfall hugging the spiral staircase, and a wall scene full with Chinese scenes give the restaurant a soothing ambiance.

"The spectacular entrance with the spiral staircase beckons with a breathtaking view of the bay and its famous sunset," says Silvestre.

To make the eyes feast for the overwhelming choices, recently the huge banquet section delights the senses, after all, it Spiral's main course.

Style, comfort and pleasurable dining

THE ART OF TABLE CULTURE IS AT THE heart of a Spiral dining experience. The chosen China for the a-la-carte dining is Rosenthal's Loft and Frivo tiptoe collection designed by Bianca Pilato.

Elegant glassware is supplied by Schott-Zwiesel of Germany. Delicious desserts come in Rosenthal's delicate and colorful transparent clay bowls. Elegant stainless steel breadsticks from Alfi of Germany serve the different selections of bread. The stainless steel salt and pepper mills are by Cole and Blaine. The sleek, slim and elegant flatware is from the Bauhaus collection of Rosenthal from Italy. Kids will love the art and fun of dining through the selection of WMF Germany's Disney+ Me for Kids collection.

Food in elegant containers is kept warm by the magic of induction, the latest in buffet technology. The induction plates and containers are from Schott Zwiesel of Germany. Coffee and Tea lovers will enjoy the pleasures of coffee and tea with WMF's beautifully designed glass and stainless steel collection. Sip from cafe latte sets, cappuccino cups, coffee servers designed by Caroline Schafer Tea pots and cups from the Jenn Collection is by designer Heinz Hanebe.

The architecture of Spiral is highlighted by the 21-foot bronze sculpture by Philippine national artist Ed Castillo. Rising from the center of the spiral staircase, the sculpture entitled "Rhythmic movements," described by Castillo as "man's unbounded aspiration by using industrial elements such as bronze sheets and tubes to mimic the graceful movements of a developing plant."

Spiral was designed by interior designer Masakazu Kinomori of Spin Design Studio. He hopes who defines his concept as a marriage of both the oriental and the international environments.

Creative Kitchen Planners International, who has worked on some of the most prestigious hotel projects in Asia from Shanghai to Bali to Phuket, has designed Spiral's innovative buffet food stations and show kitchens.

Style, comfort and pleasurable dining amid the use of natural elements in a modern surrounding defines Spiral.

professional kitchens by Allied Metals

40 years

ALLIED METALS

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Website: www.alliedmetals.com.ph

FAMILY history through food /D1

LIFESTYLE
Edgy Chain Band Formerra

MAGBAYAD NG TAMANG BUWIS
bago ang April 17 deadline.
15 DAYS TO GO

BANGUS a la Block cost Maria Sitti's Oyster Sauce for flavoring.

EVEN Diagnostics are hard put to explain why their bangus tastes different.

The true milkfish

Bonuan 'bangus' has its fat distributed much more extensively and almost evenly in its body, giving it its distinctive milky taste

Text and photos by Liesbeth Bobis

TO DAGUPEÑOS, BONUAN IS both the district and its famous bangus. For almost everyone else, Bonuan is practically the gold standard for bangus quality.

Physically the Bonuan bangus supposedly has features that distinguish it from other varieties—short arched body; fine, shiny scales; short tail and small head. But it is the taste that sets the Bonuan bangus, raised in brackish water residing from the convergence of the Lingayen Gulf and Dagupigan and Dawel Rivers, apart from the rest.

In fact, the localizing Bonuan is even distinguishable from that of neighboring Binmaley.

Like other bangus varieties, Bonuan boasts of a fat index chiefly the most prized part of the fish. But unlike the others, Bonuan also has its fat distributed much more extensively and almost evenly in the rest of its body, according to Maria Sitti Ramos Reyes, an expert in agribusiness and fish culture.

That, Reyes says, gives Bonuan its distinctive milky taste making it truly worthy to be called milkfish.

Golden-golden or bangus harvest, done in the early morning or early evening, is a ritual that is both exciting and diverse. It is also hard work. Men gather around a pen where the fish is ready for harvest; some lean months after the juvenile bangus had been cultured). Depending on the 10-hectare dewy water to haul the fish into nets. May on hours slowly drew the net close.

As the net draws in on them, the fish, their scales glinting like silver in the sun, jump up and down as they try to get out of the enclosure. The catch of the net are then hauled into a boat. A buyer usually is already waiting to receive newly harvested bangus and dictates it to vendors.

If Bonuan bought from the market managers to taste distinctive despite the trip from pen to market that can take hours, if not days, one can imagine the flavor of freshly harvested fish.

With the fish going almost straight to a pot or pan, with only a boat ride in between, one senses all its juices, that inimitable taste of fresh catch, unadulterated by ice used to preserve fish during the long trip to the market.

That goes for other seafood items, too, that one can get from the open and reserve in the Bonuan area—oysters, crabs, shrimps.

Bonuan, Reyes, used to anyway, everything that seems to be so much juicier, sweeter and tastier when fresh catch is the main ingredient.

Mixes and sauces

Of course, the right seasoning and condiments, like Sinigang sa Bayabas and Barbecue Marinade Mix, Sukang Tuba and Coconut Suka Vinegar, enhance the memorable experience of eating something practically straight from the sea. With Mama Sitti barbecue in bottles, jars, retrapak packages all those flavoring essentials one can possibly need, whipping up something memorable even on a tiny spot of land in the middle of a body of water with only fish pens for neighbors, as a result.

A member of the Marigold Commodities Corp., Mama Sitti's line includes mixes and sauces made from natural ingredients that help make cooking easier and faster. They can help turn a kitchen novice into a pro, able to make sugar or sweet, whip up dishes keen or palatable in a jiffy, or simply to liven up ordinary vegetables with a dash of oyster sauce, which.

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FAVORITE DISHES: Chicken Steak a la Poire

SWEET FUSION: Banana Tempura a la Mode

Makati's working crowd finds new lab

By Margaux Salcedo
Contributor
Photos by Rodel Bacosa

SAKE LAB II THE LATEST addition to the growing number of neighborhood bars around the Legaspi and Salcedo areas.

Formerly Beats Bar, this one-stop shop for reasonably priced good food and creative cocktails is the new yuppie hangout of choice.

For first, rewind to the Beats Bar years. Owner Happy Ongpauco, who trained at the Culinary Institute of America in Napa Valley, created a Japanese fine food restaurant with a menu composed of favorite Japanese dishes using ingredients that would allow him to serve them at amazingly reasonable prices.

The result: a full Japanese meal for as low as P125. Six P125, you can already get a slab of Porterhouse Steak Teppanyaki.

Create your own

Even better, unlike other restaurants that offer Japanese house favorites, here you are given the option to "create" your own, i.e., you can choose your viand, the side dishes and the rice.

Ongpauco also created what she calls as Ocean menu. Japanese-inspired dishes cooked in a Western manner or vice versa. An example is the Western Tuna Steak, a slab of tuna grilled in a soy sauce or mashed garlic, egg yolks, lemon juice and olive oil but lightly afterwards with wasabi mayonnaise for a hint of Japanese. The meal, which comes with rice and fillings, is only P180 and is delicious.

Another Ocean favorite of mine is the Chicken Steak a la Poire, also served with a dose of wasabi mayonnaise, priced at only P185.

For the main, I would recommend the Beef Ribs Teppanyaki, which is only P190. It's cooked Japanese style on the metal hot-box-ish contraption and is tender. Appetizer dishes using ingredients that would allow him to serve them at amazingly reasonable prices.

The chicken Tempura, with generous proportions, is only P125. Tempura aficionados will be pleased to know that the patrons here fill up the flour wrapping and not the other way around.

Banana Tempura

If you find yourself craving for something sweet, Sake Lab has a concoction that will leave you smiling the rest of the day. It's called the Banana Tempura a la Mode. It is banana dipped in tempura batter, deep-fried, topped with vanilla ice cream then caramelized in chocolate syrup. It's all your favorites combined and is an sweet as dessert's smile.

The end of 2005 marked the introduction of beats bar to the nightlife, freeing the patronized of the nightlife's need on Polaris Street. Ongpauco partnered with veteran bar owner Paolo Abejo of Dime and Abelardo Sanz, to create the ultimate neighborhood hangout: Sake Lab.

The name brought a lot of exciting ideas to my mind: geisha like waitresses serving sake, Hanajuku girls smoking out front, late night nerdy flix which has reggae on a gooby, drunk art director to loosen up and sing "I Will Survive."

Unfortunately, the laid-back Pikaesa crowd wanted probably choke at this party scene so I found myself in the ordinary: the usual Makati restaurant/pub and a cute chair, Iron Mig Light. Peoples and the Chinese Sino for conversation, and hip-hop in the air—nothing Japanese!

To the owners' credit though, they do offer the Sake Bomb, which I thoroughly enjoyed and which I would have all my friends drink for the rest of SY 31 is a shot of sake in a beer glass of beer. But the fun is not as much in the drink as in the act of drinking it. As we pressed by patrons above, you're supposed to gulp it down while the rest of your friends chanted you on, shouting "Bar! Bar! Bar!", which was what he and partner Gary Zabarte did.

It's a whole lot of fun—just never do it on an empty stomach or you might end up throwing up either way) altogether!

BAKED for Chicken Broil/Mike Teppanyaki

All in all, Sake Lab is the perfect hangout for Makati's working crowd. With a very reasonably priced lunch and dinner menu, great lounge music (one of DJ Mixin, and bang for the buck drinks like the Sake Bomb), Sake Lab's the bomb.

The best way to end the week, really is to go "Bar" at Sake Lab!

Sake Lab, formerly Beats Bar, is on C. Palanca Street in Legaspi Village.

E-mail the author at margaux.salcedo@yahoo.com

The true milkfish

Pumunta sa C1

incidentally, is made from coconut cream and a few more secret Filipino ingredients.

Boneless Chicken Barbecue

1 kg boneless chicken (breasts and thighs)
3/4 c Mama Sita's Barbecue Marinade
Cooking oil for basting
1. Slice chicken meat into 3" x 2" portions.
2. In a bowl, marinate chicken pieces in Mama Sita's Barbecue Marinade.
3. Refrigerate for one hour in the refrigerator.
4. Skewer chicken pieces into barbecue sticks.
5. Grill skewered chicken two to three minutes on each side.
6. Brush occasionally with the marinade mixed with cooking oil.
7. Serve with Mama Sita's Java Sauce as a dip.

Makes five servings
Dipping Sauce: Java Sauce
Substitute: For seafood, marinate 15 minutes per kilo.

Sinigang na Bangus Belly sa Bayabas

½ c water
1 small onion, quartered
1 small tomato, quartered
1 pouch Mama Sita's Sinigang sa Bayabas Mix
1 c bangus belly, boneless
2 siling haba (long green pepper)
½ c string beans cut into 1-inch lengths
1 c kangkong
Fish sauce (patis) to taste
1. In a saucepan, combine water, onion, tomatoes and Mama Sita's Sinigang sa Bayabas Mix.
2. Bring to a boil.
3. Add bangus belly, cut into serving pieces. Cook until almost done.
4. Add eggplant and okra. Continue cooking for five minutes then add kangkong. Turn off heat.
5. Add fish sauce to taste.
6. Serve hot.
Makes four servings

Bangus a la Bistek

1 lb bangus belly
2 tbsp Mama Sita's Liquid Seasoning
1 tsp calamansi juice
2 tbsp cooking oil
½ c onion, cubed
½ c tomatoes, cubed
½ c onion rings
2 tbsp Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce
1. Marinate bangus belly in Mama Sita's liquid seasoning and calamansi juice for 15 minutes.
2. Brown cubed onions and tomato in boiling water.
3. Heat oil. Fry marinated bangus belly till it changes color.
4. Set aside.
5. In the same pan, stir fry onion rings in the oil. Add Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce.
6. Add bangus belly and continue cooking until sauce thickens, more or less two minutes.
7. To serve, arrange bangus belly in serving platter. Top with onion rings and pour sauce over it. Garnish with blanched vegetables.
8. Serve hot.
Makes four servings

HEIDI Ocampo of Marigold Commodities Corp. demonstrates how to cook Sinigang sa Bayabas using Mama Sita's instant mix.

HERE is a marvelous platform ways to load barbecued bangus during picture-taking.

WITH the right sauces and condiments, like Mama Sita's, a simple fare of grilled chicken, steamed siomai, or salad made some sort and sliced onions is a feast.

PEAS in Bonsai also produce fat crops.

FRESHLY harvested seafood needs only the most basic condiments to be fully savored.

MAMA SITA's oyster sauce, got their main ingredients from farms in Bonsai.

TWO of Pangasinan's other famous products—dates Calasiao and mangoes.

Cooking classes in a market

THE CENTRO FOR CULINARY Arts Manila (CCA Manila) is offering Greatest International Short Courses (GISC) at Farmers Market.

The satellite school at the Farmers Market will adopt the innovative approach "Shop, Cook and Learn." It is geared for adults of all ages with both basic and advance income that will cover local and international recipes.

The four-hour classes will allow full hands-on participation by students. The program aims to enhance the students' knowledge and skills by adding a professional touch to what they already know.

Students will join chef instructors on a culinary tour in the farmer's Wet Market and learn some about ingredients and current products. Instructors will also give them tips on purchasing.

The students will then cook what they bought back at the school, featured as the second level of the market.

CCA Manila is at 2/F Greatlogic Bldg., Salapasan Ave., Lavista Heights, Quezon City. Call 4264940 to 41, E-mail cmanila@cca-manila.com or visit www.cca-manila.com.

Learn the art of 'pancit'-making

THE MANILA JOURNAL SCHOOL OF CULINARY Arts will conduct the following classes:

March 31 (Gourmet Pasta) — The Art of Making Delicious Pasta — Pasta Cuisine with Scallops, Pancit Bihon Guisado with Chinese Pork Sisado and Roasted Duck, Pasta Mania in Lemon Mustard Broth, Lang-lang with Fresh Spring Vegetables, Steamed Style Pasta Fritatta.

April 1 (Chinese Sea Bass — Steamed with Hot Oil and Soy-flavored Sauce, Whole Bass in Salt Crust with Garlic Sauce, Rosemary-baked Honey-glazed with Butter Sauce, Bass Kebabs, Sea Bass Curry, Whole Steamed Oriental Style.

April 2 (Easy Primy Style — Barbecued Leng, Rice Bowl Dished with Bacon-mushrooged Lumpiang Bisel in Leftover Leaves, Lumpiang Sariwang Prito (Lumpiang Shoot, Cymbal's Pate Pork, Lutong Macao Style with Hangop, Monggo Guisado Over Night, plus Guinataang Gulay Done to Perfection, a technique that works for almost all types of veggies.

April 3 (Beef and Sandwiches (at one) — Caesar Sandwiches, Chicken Caesar, Turkey with Hot Cheese Sauce, Chicken Avocado, Barbecued Pork, Tuna, beside with four dressings and condiments.

Call 5585998, 501 2008 or 6324 552.

Basics of food serving

MAFIS (0 TO 6) is offering the Basic Course for Food Servers, 3-6 p.m., April 1 and 8.

The course will cover service equipment and supplies, basic setup, napkin folding and dishing, table service preparation, types, sequencing, taking orders, placing and processing.

Basic Culinary Course, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., April 6-7, will cover proper hygiene, sanitation and safety, nutrition and multi-ethnic cooking, proper use of knives, measuring, storage techniques of depositing and boning poultry, finishing fish and meat fabrications, with an hands-on application of chicken fabrication, salads, eggs, pasta, seafood, poultry and meats all the way to dessert, including garnishing for photo-exposition. Participants get a free "Ma-A Manis" cookbook.

Food Ways Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday) at 6/F, Liberty Bldg., N. Roxas Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. Call 8921136 or 8923011 local 126 E-mail: mildredmo@foodwaysinc.com.ph.

Marks of quality—and safety

From page C4

Sonico complained that the washing machine they bought had a dirty base and smelled of fabric softener. He was also bothered that SM Appliance Center immediately replaced the unit when he complained.

It was explained to him that it was the policy of both SM and Whirlpool to replace units within seven days after purchase. SM Appliance Center assured all units they sold were delivered directly from the supplier and they did not sell any used items. Chris Story, Branch's AVP for sales and marketing, assured Sonico that all products Whirlpool delivered to SM were brand new. As the company's washing machine factory was in Brazil, he said he would pass on Sonico's comments to the production outfit.

(Our regular columnist, Marissa C. Goco, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Bonanza and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati, or e-mail lhotan@inquirer.com.ph. —Editor)

Marks of quality—and safety

By Linda B. Bolido

FIRE PREVENTION SHOULD NOT BE JUST A month-long exercise. It should be a year-round concern.

Business consumer make will July can there have and property, as well as those of other people.

In Fire Prevention Month alone, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) issues the reminder so people can stay safe the whole year round. The department says, to avoid fire-related accidents due to poor-quality products, people should make sure they only buy appliances and other electrical products bearing the Philippine Standard (PS) or Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) mark.

Items bearing the PS mark (locally manufactured), or ICC mark (imported goods) have passed safety tests of the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS), says Trade Undersecretary for Consumer Welfare Zenaida Cotera Maglaya.

Among household products required to have the PS or ICC mark are liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, refrigerators, room air-conditioners, flat irons, rice cookers, television sets, electric fans, lighting products such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and self-ballasted lamps, ballasts, Christmas lights, electrical inventory, flexible cords, wires and cables, fuses, switches, fire extinguishers, safety materials, and lighters.

Maglaya says safe products are not necessarily the most expensive. "So long as the product passed the standards, [consumers] are cap for. Do be misled that the 'flash' and light."

But she warns, "Some substandard and lighting products may be sold at rock-bottom prices. But] quality items have been sacrificed just to meet the demand for low prices... In the end, consumers end up paying more for the damage to property... The few years saved are not worth the risk."

BPS director Josue G. Mercurio says the bureau has a sustained campaign throughout the country to rid the market of substandard products. He also stresses the need to use the products properly and to observe safe practices.

In observance of Fire Prevention Month, the department has set up a mini-exhibit for the whole month of March at the lobby of the DTI office in Makati to showcase products that comply with safety and quality requirements and how the PS and ICC marks. It also offers tips for choosing and properly using the products. Theme of this year's Fire Prevention Month is "Pamparami: Isang-kamay para sa Isang."

Consumers can report or file a complaint against substandard products through the consumer hotline (751-1334), Letdirect website (www.v-dti.com.ph), e-mail (sec@dti.gov.ph.ph.ph), TEXT DTI<space>REKLAMO to 2920 for Globe and Smart subscribers. They can also visit DTI at 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Happy consumers

Meanwhile, DTI has made a visible impact[illegible] more happy by acting on her complaint. She complained about poor service by a store selling fax machines. After DTI was alerted of the problem, a company technician showed up to teach her how to use the core features of the machines.

A. F. Banks, on the other hand, is grateful that brand has addressed her problem. "I would like to inform you that I have acted immediately on my concern. Their representative called me up and informed me about the corrective actions they would be implementing."

The complaints included arbitrary charges and misleading information on the NBI process.

Staff [illegible] wait for a new telephone is finally over. The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company installed her new phone March 15. She was getting frustrated by the long delay since she applied for a new phone in December.

3M Appliance Center and Biotech Inc., distributor of Rhinolpicol, apologized to customers [illegible] for the inconvenience he might have suffered and assured him that all appliances they carried were brand new.

LIFESTYLE

THE FAMILY that cooks together... The working committee for the book poses at the restaurant of the Hidalgo-Lim ancestral home. (Row 1 from left) Betchie Arenas, Rosemarie Quirino, Pia Castillo, Nicky Hidalgo, Jaime Laya, Maria Sandoval. (Row 2) Erniel Lim, Mabi Sandoval, Vivian Madrigal, Lolita Lim, Mary Lucero, Liza Hidalgo and Lorenzo Ardnas

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

a world to discover

A family history of dishes

HOW MANY FAMILIES CAN BOAST THAT their recipes have been recorded for posterity in ebook? Or that the family's history through five generations has been inducted, written as a series of stories, in a style that succeeds in making those interesting poses in an outmoded?

"Hidalgo Heritage" (Ayala Publishing, 2008) was launched at the ancestral home of the Hidalgo-Lims on Vito Cruz last month. It was a year after the book was planned, several Hidalgo-Lims say.

COUNTRY COOKING

Hidgy Arenas

In his introduction, he described the project as a book "from an outrageously funky history, memories of happy times, recipes of favorite dishes (most) brought to the potluck mentioned, and the stories that go with them."

Descendants of Hidalgos trace their roots to Don Luis A. Hidalgo and Doña Eduvis Lindayag of Brgy. Matandapay. There were 19 children from that union and the book is divided into chapters for each sibling (e.g House of Dilumoy).

Annual event

You can imagine how big the clan is if its gets-together alike. What it admirable is that Hidalgo reunions have been a yearly occurrence. It was during the 2006 gathering that the book was first planned.

The working committee for the book comprised of representatives of the clan's twelve fifth generation. Adelaida Lim wrote and edited the book with Laya. Her sister, Pia Lim Castillo, usually hosted the monthly meetings.

The committees gathered clan, photographs, stories and recipes. E-mail helped a lot in the flow of communications, connecting the westerners to the different families. Web-cam especially helped with the house of Ursula Villanueva, allied whose members were from as varied as the United States. It was the only branch with no representative during the launch.

Laya is a descendant by affinity. He married Alice Sandoval, daughter of Concepcion Hidalgo. The fact that the book was finished in a year's time, quite fast. If you wonder how Laya has other words to do, dedicated his interest in writing the stories of the Hidalgo family.

He found pleasure in nuggets of discovery such as learning that the soul Lola Basang of Jaime Laya Bayot's choice was the grandmother of Rufino Zamora under married Augusto Hidalgo.

Hidalgo recipes are cherished by the clan whose who've made it has attributed by the additions brought in by in-laws. The recipes include traditional Filipino cookery, traditional Spanish-influenced dishes, provincial delicacies and kitchen-tested family chefs.

And how wonderful that each family selection includes those who made them more accessible, including those who didn't willingly give the recipes. Of the 19 siblings, it's Augusto Hidalgo who stirred in the Marinduque hometown.

The dishes that belong to the place are adobo sa puti—chicken cooked in coconut milk and served with butterfly pea flowers, also cooked in gata. The hamonado Ati's, a steamed yam, is another. The homeowner's version of the broiled beef shank and lemongrass adds coconut, citrus and oregano (small pale in taste) to the pot.

6 MARCH '22

PARCELS of fresh lumpiang ubod in soup spoons

THE CHOICES are plentiful at Great Eats food court V-Mall: Inihaw Express' Tuna Belly Inihaw, Mon Lin's Bicerus, 'Sizzling Seafoods' Lapu-Lapu Ala Pobre, Okayu's Boxed Box and Fruit Magic's Squeeze Juice, among others.

V-MALL SHOPPERS visit Jose Rizal's Parker House, Chin's Express' Big Meal, Bimabol's Twice Rice, Bagsan's Guimaras Jolen, Pinoy Recipe' Kare Pareho and Coffee Expo won't's Cappuccino Jello and Choco Frappuccino at the food court.

Grad party treats

PLANNING A SIMPLE and economical graduation party? Here are some recipe suggestions from the late Miguel Para Sweets Culinary Center.

For more recipes, visit www.angsarap.net.

Lumpiang Prito a la Purefoods Carne Norte

1 170-g can Purefoods Carne Norte (cubed)
2 tbsp Magnolia Margarine
½ c finely chopped carrots
1 onion
1/3 c chopped spring onions
12 pc small round lumpia wrappers
Magnolia Nutrl-Oil for deep frying

Heat oil in a wok. Stir-fry Purefoods Carne Norte Guisado, carrots and onion. Remove from heat and stir in spring onions. Transfer mixture to a strainer to remove excess liquid. Wrap a tablespoon of the mixture in lumpia wrappers and deep-fry in hot oil.

Makes 12 pieces.

Grilled Pork Ribs

1 ½ kilograms pork rib chops, cut each rib into 4-inch pieces
1 head garlic, peeled and crushed
½ c soy sauce
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
4 tbsp sugar
Basting Sauce
½ bar Reel Citrus Classic, melted
1 tsp cayenne
½ tsp paprika
½ tsp chili powder

Marinate pork ribs in garlic, soy sauce, Worcestershire and sugar for at least 30 minutes. In a bowl, combine melted Reel Citrus, cayenne, paprika and chili powder. Grill pork ribs and baste with Reel Citrus mixture occasionally.

Makes six servings.

Fried Cheese

1 bar Magnolia Cheddar Cheese, cubed
½ c all-purpose flour
1 egg, lightly beaten
½ c Japanese bread crumbs
Magnolia Nutrl-Oil for frying

Coat cheese cubes in flour. Dip in egg and coat in bread crumbs. Deep fry in hot oil until golden brown.

LUMPIANG Prito a la Purefoods Carne Norte

Shopping mall is also a foodies' haven

NEW home for foodies who are also "shop-aholics"

VISMALL, FORMERLY SM MEGA MALL is now no longer just a shopping destination but foodies' haven, too.

Great Eats food court at the mall's 3rd level has nine fast-food eateries and an assortment of food carts and kiosks serving delicacies, drinks and everything in between.

Offering affordable dishes are Chin's Express, a Chinese restaurant; Okayu, which serves Japanese Bentos specializing in Filipino dishes; Sizzling Seafoods and Breakfreak, offering hot, sizzling items; and Inihaw Express with its grilled specialties.

Also at the food court are Inihaw, Coco Bling and Bellezy's Pizza Hero.

Great Eats has the first and only Bandeira Banzado Pastry Cart, of the renowned Bandeira Restaurant. Another novel food cart is Crazy Choco serving fondue-dipped treats and ice cream with toppings.

Other establishments are Waffle Time, Jensen Corner, Patchouli, Bagtikan, Hot Lix, Fruit Magic, Juanchic Kitchen, Jungle Frozen Plain Recipe, Coffee Expo/Jensen and Uncle Jonny's Cheesecake.

The duo offers the 9-Piece Sisig Lite promo.

Great Eats food court is accessible from the Annapolis Carpark and through the mall entrances. It occupies a 1,400-sq m floor area and can comfortably fit 800 persons with open-style dining concept.

Great Eats food court is managed by Pentamindo Development Corp., which also runs and manages Food Island. Food court is the latest addition in the Food Island franchises in the Luzon Grand Mall, Starmall, Ever Gotesco Manila Plaza and Ever Grand Plaza. It is open 10 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Sunday-Thursday; and 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday. Call 7309479.

A family history. . .

Viewpoint B4

Leyte recipes

These were contributed by Lita Ramos Hidalgo whose Leyte recipes of select gala dishes, such as the binatakang mansit, were also included. She also wrote a charming story about the coconut, the unsung genes to the different stages of the year in mid-August, the ones for each new year, how to drink the tree and even the sugar of tuba.

Patricia Alaba Lim Yeuh brought the binatog cooking of her husband's family to the mix. There is the spice rub of pinipigan flats, pampagana mansit or black chicken, and the luscious, rice-cooked in gata and made yellow by turmeric, scent of Java rice.

She said dinner was given to a bride before everything.

The additional information in the recipes is as precious as the family history. In Tita Aiken's Leyte Ala, for instance, Claudio Jacinto Jandili warns how the barometric technique used in the cooking "reminds us of an hen than the Virgin Mary, known for her gentle nature, hence, the temperature in a hot water bath should never be boiling."

Helen T. Rodrigues of the House of Heroes contributed favorite recipes of her husband's family, including Cook-Up Rice that originally consisted of "spoiled rice and more range given to the black dawns in the 1700s."

WWII survivor

At the launch, guests had a glimpse of the old house of Mar Hidalgo and her husband, Gen. Vicente Lim, a hero of Bataan Death March and the only surviving one on that Death Row cross. Heightening homes were decimated by bombs.

The table was set the way it must have been done during the old days with a crocheted tablecloth. We were asked to look at the ceiling and count how many tusks were hanging behind the chairs. There were done by unsung painters of Dulcinea Hilera where Mar Hidalgo Lim was an executive producer.

After the speeches and acknowledgments of the meals done by specific family members, everyone was invited to partake of a sampling of the recipes. It was fitting that the cooking was done by family members as well, particularly Rita Lim Ayuyao and her husband Abel Ayuyao, who both were tool cook for Leta Dad'ish Manila.

There were so many friends and members of the Hidalgo clans at the launch that as soon as the food was brought to the table, the items disappeared. Most were presented as finger food, placed on top of or encased in bread or coming on Chinese soup spoons.

Through Pasbuk Hidalgo Bonding," we got a glimpse of a family through generations. It is food that serves as the bond to family reunions and now in this book.

E-mail me at pinoyfoodie@yahoo.com

HOST family Kraft brand executive Vince Cerron, Kraft management trainee Marvie Barga, Kraft assistant brand manager Bojong Santos, HOST Kyusa girl Eugene Domingo and HOST's first Ultimate Cooking Diva Pairing Cerron

FLORABEL Co serves as a judge for the day's cooking contest.

TEAM 2 preparing Cheesy Pesada

Cooking show's second season launched

KOMIDE SAMURAI BLAST "Bites" Season 2 was launched in style in Iloilo Victoria, transformed into a mini-set cooking show domain.

The late-season season set was decorated to look like the venue for the popular weekly cooking competition on television.

The ballet was prepared by chef Florabel Co. An audio-visual presentation featured the 27 contestants participating in the show's second season, aired 11 a.m., Saturday, on ABS-CBN.

Media guests were divided into three groups representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and asked to prepare a meat dish identified with a particular island group.

Also on the launch were show hosts Jose Pablo and Cherry Pie Picache, and comedienne Eugene Domingo.

WINNING media team during the launch in Pulse Victoria of "Makuha Ka Sa Tikim" Season 2, aired 11 a.m., Saturday, on ABS-CBN

Dining out

LOVE FIESTA presents "2 Cool for Summer" sweet and cool fruity delights for sizzling days (P) Vendors) and parties (Preferences)—topped with refreshingly delicious Big Scoops ice cream. Lab Four Blondie House has branches in Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Megamall (second floor), E. Gonzalez 2, Ayala Centre, Makati; Eastwood Cyberzone, Libis; Festival Supermall, Alabang; Powerplant Mall, Rockwell; Supermarket, Taguig; and Alabang Town Center.

HOLIDAY INN GALLERIA'S Rachael Cubit presents its International Buffet highlighting Greek dishes until May 14. The Cubit Greek lunch buffet starts at 11 noon-2:30 p.m. for P800 with extra summer "two-for-the-price-of-one" deal. Call 6351111 loc. 1115.

HOLIDAY INN Galleria/Manila offers Bohemian Buffet by the Pool available at P1,500+ per person inclusive of one round of soda or iced tea beer. Call 6351111 loc. 1416/1448.

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA offers a call adding menu of ice cream sundaes and iced shakes, available until May 31. The menu includes Fruit 'n' Ice, Tropic Cocoa, Mango Tango, Tropic Iced, White Native Freeze and Mango Shake. Shake, Shake, Shake, Wherever We, Prince Albert Fairmont presents a dinner menu which includes Bean-roasted Chicken Breast filled with Crab Meat and an Mushroom Tagliatelle with Lobster Ham, Pine-nuts Oil, Beef tenderloin and grilled Lobster Medallion with Red Wine Butter Sauce and Artichoke Potato, among others, from April 18-30. Call 8516111.

FISHERMEN'S GRILL offers seafood dishes in an all-day dining a la carte menu. April 1-15. It includes Grilled Norwegian Salmon Steak served on mushroom ragout in the Steamed Tilapia filled in a bed of oriental vegetables with rice and oyster leek sauce. There's the Sautéed Kabuto in Ginger-Soy Dressing, Bar-Be-Que and Vegetables Tempura and the Grilled Pork Tuna Kebab with Satay. Call 8884188/842.

KWAN HOTEL and Center's 11 Restaurant offers a variety of King Crab specialties by master chef Dhon. There's the Black Peppered Crab, Ginger and Glaze Stir-Fried Crab and King Crab with Egg and Fu Mee Steamed Crab. The offer is valid March 31. Call 2421234.

THE MARINA'S offers a menu of "Se Mee food" specialties of Spanish-Filipino mouth. You can have a combination of calamari and pulpo fritto for starters then for main course with salsa, or have Bone Fortitua Macaroni with mixed cheese, jalapeños and chili concasse, served with salsa.

CASA ARMAS offers special packages this March until the first week of April as a tribute to graduates. Offered are Kapisanan Package for P1,800+ (1-4 people), P2,800+ (5-12 people) and P4,800+ (12-15 people), all featuring Casa Armas top-sellers, Casa Armas Graduation Package Special includes all-time favorite tapas, e.g. Salsa Casa Armas (tapenade mixed Spanish cold cuts), Chorizo Iris (fried Spanish sausage) and Sardinas al Ajillo (garlic sardines).

Other house specialties are Paella Valenciana (saffron rice with assorted seafood, chicken, pork and vegetables), Pardusca de Pescado (grilled seafood fish), Lengua Estofada (ox tongue stew). Desserts include Flan al Caramelo (homemade caramel custard) and Canonigo (soft meringue cake). Each package comes with a complimentary bottle of Sta. Carolina sparkling wine, plus a chance to win a Nokia 6600 cell phone.

The promo is available at Sta. Benedicti, Poblacion and Jupiter branches. For the package with Cocinada (Roast Suckling Pig) and Rosario de Pollo (Juicy Angel Roast Chicken), reservations should be made four days in advance.

The promo is made possible with the collaboration of BDO Credit Cards and Globe Telecom. Call Casa Armas at 519, The Podium (8877880), Jupiter (8923842), and 329, Greenbelt 3 (7574990).

FACADE and entrance of Casa Armas Tapas Bar Y Restaurante along Jupiter St. in Makati City.

LOBSTER Medallion set on Grilled Eggplants and Zucchini served with Provence Crab and Fennel

Chronicler of Philippine food history

Milagros Enriquez was honored during the Philippine Centennial as one of 100 women who made lasting contributions in arts and culture

THERE'S A SERENE AURA that comes with age and a life well-lived, tackled, a full life has in-put ensued!

Milagros Enriquez, 83, a real veteran and survivor survived, drilled this subtly generously and beautifully.

Her gentle voice, calm demeanor and calm is tell more too much for someone like me. Inside her I seem so young, so unknowledgeable. Truly, one can never know it all... Time and experience remain, in fact, life's best teachers.

Over coffee and delicacies at the Enriquez ancestral home in Balintawak, she spoke of the good old days. All over the place are mementos of bygone years. Cut-crystal glass, antique furniture, lamps from the days of the revolucion, even a Kalayaan bandera flag.

It would have been more appropriate to have gone there perched in a Alaska Cano. I was walking into a dream, the idea of pacifism rushed somewhere in the house would not have been believed.

Born Milagros Santiago, the daughter of Modesto Santiago, doctor, Colombo Santiago and Club de Mujeres president (1929-30) Hospicia Cervantes, it was her mother's involvement in the club that sparked her interest in food that eventually led to the historical chronicling of Philippine cuisine.

Perhaps, the fact that she married Andres Enriquez, son of Vicente Enriquez, a Katipunero, side de camp to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and one of the founders of the Katipunan in Balintawak, played a major role.

Ka Milla's achievements are many. She was our representative to the Smithsonian in Washington during the Folk Life Festival where she spoke of our food heritage. She was recognized during the Philippine Centennial as one of the 100 women who made lasting contributions in the field of arts and culture.

Enriquez also authored the book "Kasaysayan ng Kubyertos ng Pilipino," which, unfortunately is now out of print.

Her researches include: Food of the Soldiers "Mga sa Kusot;" from Rajah Sulayman, who was killed in the battle of Bangkusay to Boodle Fight Food in Hinabanan; The Evolution of the Christian Menu—Kinds, to Present; Ang Mga Pabendang Pagkain ng Mga Bayani; Brunette Food of the Revolution and The Filipino transformation of Philippine Independence Menu.

Ka Milla, may you continue to be blessed with many more years, so that you may see the fulfillment of your dream that "Kasaysayan ng Kubyertos ng Bayan" be organized! That much you owe us!

For your numerous contributions to Philippine cuisine, we will never be able to thank you enough. Sweets, our gratitude!

Kitchen Rescue

Maggie Aspiras

Holy Week menu

Can you please help me come up with a Filipino menu that I can serve my family who comes over for Holy Week?

JULIAN M., EMBRAER

Sure and with an interesting twist...

Pagbabag Kasaysayan ni Ka Milla Enriquez

Puto Kuramba

1. tasa ng dalahan, ginayat ng pahaba at manipis; maliit na tipon; pinipig
1 tibagan, ginayat
1 tasang harinang ordinaryo
½ tasang tubig
tatlong pamputlan

Tadtarin ng parang pagod sa plastic ang pinagbalu-balong dalahin, tipon, tibagan at pinipig. Batuan ng kasoring pinagbalu-balong harina at ordinaryo at tubig ang hiwasa pagod. Pritahin nang lubog sa mantika. Buin ng kusoma ang matamasang cuaba, parentesa at sata.

*, ang kalasang ito ay kalasang kombesta ng Indalan. Maging kumpitlan ang pag-anlay sa pagde ng kombang tasang dalapi na bahid sa dambang halamanan tilang pasalamat sa mga Apaya ng Hiya.

Bringbong Bulakan

2 tasang malagkit
4 tasang gata
1 tasang lapong may tinta
1 ubrongga-sibrongga, hinati dayl

2 tibay pandyos na pako at berde, hinimo ng pahabe
2 tibong hawang, dinikdik
2 tibag na, ginayat
2 tibagang tibig, nahiwa
lapong dilaw
gata at pandesal

Isaring ang malagkit sa gata, hawa ng lapong dilaw, asin at pandesal. Ipiso ang ubrongga, dipon at pasok dongpong madaon sinlimang. Ibabad sa dinikdik ang lubad ng ubrongga na ginitan.

Bulaklak sa dahon ng saging at pantingawan ng dong-tomato. Lagyan ng tibag-bago ibabe.

Alay sa mga Manlalangang Pulabok

12 pcs de ad/ pare sa arroz, hinatong maliit
¼ tasang fish crackin'
½ kg tinapa, hinimo at ginisa

2. tubas, hubagang supriso, hinimong maliit
3 kutsarang hinahad na tubig na sinsin subsa ng lapon crudig
½ kg bihon, malinglig na nasirit na tubig
2 kutsarang durdulin na suwa
1 kutsarang alimang na cayo, mulalabing alimang na pinatuyo, ngutsad
3 tubigang bing, hinimo
¼ sasang kinaay
1/3 kasing cibugui
5 pn sarang pansay Tagalog
pares
kutsarang kosina, hinimong maliit

Ipiso ang kawang at cibugui, ernsele at pan de ad. Ibubo ang subsa palapasin. Bagay ang pansinco at kinay. Ipiso ng isa cos ang tinapa, gubay at tabaw at dahi. Ibabasa ng kasoring mamiko at pansinco ng pacis ang bihon, dagay sis sa durdulin at budburan ng durapa at alimang na bisaya.

Ibabasa ng sarsang pan de ad. Dagar ang tinapa, gubay at tabaw. Budburan ng suesi at fish crackers. Lagyan ng tibig na malapa. Silbre ng kokomate at gata. Mesti ito ang lutuan sa hinimong maliit.

E-mail the author at magsalitaquino@yahoo.ph

It's a bright day for bright kids in

Bright Town

SM North EDSA
Entertainment Plaza
April 1, 2006, Saturday

Hello, moms and kids!
Join us at BRIGHT TOWN,
a special place where kids can learn, play, meet new friends and have a truly great time!

Visit the Teacher's Corner and enjoy exciting storytelling sessions. Stop over in Parenting Alley and get to watch educational audio-video presentations. Make a quick stop at the Bright Future Photo Booth and capture bright and fun moments. You can also drop by Doctor Street to witness fun experiments and grab free snacks at Cook's Avenue. What's more, a big surprise awaits all Enervon Bright kids!

Plus, there's live entertainment from 11 AM to 1 PM:
11 AM - Dance number by Starstruck Kids- Bratz Jeans, Cool Sailor, Hot Bananas and Madonna Ya
12 PM - Song number by Elise Pineda of Goin' Bulilit
1 PM - Musical show by Trumpets Playskool
4 PM - Dance number by Batgirl Child
5 PM - "Kiddy" Fashion
6 PM - Fun magic show by Mad Science

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Growing Up Milk
The Future Looks Bright

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TO AN HP BUSINESS INKJET 1000 PRINTER.

In exchange for your old/working or non-working printers, HP is giving you 40% off when you purchase a brand new HP Printer from March 20 to May 20, 2006. Originally priced at P8,490, now you can trade-up to the high performing HP Business Inkjet 1000 Printer or a convenient-friendly printer for just P5,999. It features 4 individual high-capacity ink cartridges for your high volume business printing. It prints up to four 23 ppm for black and 19 ppm for color to make you more efficient. Plus, you save up to 21% more cost per page compared to a conventional laser printer*. And when you buy the HP Business Inkjet 1000 Printer together with 1 set of HP inks, pay only P4,999. That's 20% off from its original price of P5,490.

P4,999^

And 10% off on HP ink cart. Pay only P4,499 with participating banks. Suggested Retail Price is P5,490.

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. Trade-in your old printer for a new purchasing HP Original Cartridge Readies a Brand New/Re-Engineered printer to get 40% discounted model to the HP Business Inkjet 1000 printer to only P4,999. Originally priced at P8,490.
2. Customers can purchase an additional set of 4 inks at 10% discount for only P4,499 when shopping at participating banks with an HP Business Inkjet 1000 printer.
3. Filling the Trade-In you receive a coupon in purchasing the printer from the retailer.
4. Fill out the coupon with your contact details and retailer's name stated.
5. For Corporate Accounts, a purchase order is required for more than 5 unit purchase.

Terms and conditions apply. Promo valid from March 20, 2006 to May 20, 2006 or while stocks last. Limited to one unit per customer. Not valid with other promotions. Valid only in the Philippines. Subject to change without prior notice. Photos are for illustration purposes only. Actual product may vary. Not responsible for typographical errors. Prices are inclusive of VAT.

*Based on HP internal testing of HP Business Inkjet 1000 printer vs. HP LaserJet 1320 printer. Actual results may vary.

^Suggested Retail Price. Actual selling price may vary.

Ice cream takes it lite and cool

A HOT SUMMER DEAL JUST WOULDN'T BE complete without a delectable decadent scoop of your favorite ice cream. Who says the calorie-conscious can indulge in this classic treat. With new Selecta Lite, you get the delicious, full-flavored ice cream taste, without the guilt!

The new Selecta Lite ice cream series in the three specialty flavors—Double Dutch, with the smooth, classic taste of vanilla mixed with chocolate chips; Cookie and Cream, with the exciting texture of crunchy oats and sweet marshmallows blended in; and Chocolate Cream and Cookie and Cream, vanilla milk ice cream chunks.

Selecta Lite is 94 percent fat-free and has 33 percent less sugar. It uses no artificial additives as substitutes for fat and sugar. This gives you a healthier dessert alternative with the rich, mouth-watering flavor you've always craved.

Each full-flavored serving of Double Dutch, Cookie and Cream or Very Rocky Road with nuts only 200 calories. Any of these scrumptious ice cream flavors could cap off your vacation-day food trip, or give you a delightful way to cool off in the middle of a long, hot afternoon.

Add Selecta Lite to your summer menu and enjoy a healthy twist to your favorite dessert. With these lite and yummy options, ice cream lovers now have even reasons to celebrate!

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